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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-085 *3 May 1995*

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Islamic Affairs

Ulema Warn Against Annihilation of Hamas, Others

NC0205141295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Well over 500 of the nation's most prominent scholars and intellectuals as well as leaders of the Islamic and national movements and political forces have warned against the conspiracy that is being concocted against the resistance movements and mujahidin in Palestine.

In a statement released under the caption "Support and Solidarity," the nation's ulema and thinkers declared their support and solidarity with the jihad of the Palestinian people led by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the other resistance and jihad forces in Palestine. The ulema, who belong to many Arab and Islamic countries, including Egypt, Palestine, Yemen, Jordan, Pakistan, Sudan, and India, condemned the policy of settlement which the forces of global arrogance and Zionism are trying to impose. They stressed that this policy is aimed at annihilating the Palestinian cause and forcing the nation to accept the usurpation of Palestine.

The statement pointed out that the political recognition of the occupation or the normalization of relations are rejected and cannot be approved by the nation's ideology and conscience. The ulema's statement stressed that the land and sovereignty of Jerusalem, al- Aqsa Mosque, and any other holy site are not subjects for bargaining. Furthermore, any solution that promotes occupation is rejected by Islam and the nation.

The statement emphasized that the option of jihad to liberate Palestine represents the nation's option. Therefore, all other options are only meant to consolidate the occupation of any part of the blessed land are not legitimate.

The statement was signed for Egypt by a large number of party leaders, political forces, intellectuals, and journalists. These include: Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Labor Party; Mustafa Kamil Murad, leader of the Liberal Party; Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, the general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood; and 'Adil Husayn, secretary general of the Labor Party.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 18 Apr

NC2804100795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 18 April edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Two Killed by Authorities in March Said Not Involved in Violence

2. Deputy Guide Defends Brotherhood, Reviews Contributions

3. Brotherhood Warns of Palestinian Infighting, Weapons Collection

4. Writer Laments Lack of Response to Israeli Satellite Program

5. Report Discusses Transfer of Teachers on Security Recommendations

6. Engineers Association Protests Receivership Order

7. Ministry Said Suspending YMMA Activities

TWO KILLED BY AUTHORITIES IN MARCH SAID NOT INVOLVED IN VIOLENCE

In a 1,500-word report headlined "Two Tragic Accounts from the Heart of the Maelstrom of Violence that Harvests Innocent Lives in al-Minya" on page 2, Ahmad Mahjub says that two men, said by the authorities to be terrorists, who were killed by the security forces in al-Minya Governorate in March, were not involved in antigovernment violence and that indeed one of them was physically handicapped. The report identifies them as Ashraf Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Ati, 26, a merchant, and Mustafa Ahmad 'Ali Khalil, a student of architecture at al-Minya University.

The writer recounts interviews with the mothers of the two men and cites them as saying that their sons were not involved in antigovernment activities.

'Abd-al-'Ati's mother says her son, who was lame, had "never held a knife in his life" and worked every day at his wholesale clothing store in the city of al-Minya. She says he was never wanted in any criminal case but was once detained for two months. She says their house was sometimes searched.

Khalil's mother says her son was a third year architecture student and that she knows nothing about his involvement with terrorist groups, declaring: "I heard this only from the prosecutor and I told him that I knew nothing about such a thing."

Asked by the writer if she accuses any party of killing her son, she replies: "I accuse no one of killing him, because I saw nothing. My son had no private enemies nor enemies in the government."

DEPUTY GUIDE DEFENDS BROTHERHOOD, REVIEWS CONTRIBUTIONS

In a 1,800-word article on page 5 by Ahmad al-Malat, one of two deputies of the Muslim Brotherhood's general guide, writes a defense of the Brotherhood against its detractors. The article has the following Koranic verse as a headline: "Verily God will defend those who believe; verily God loveth not any that is a traitor to faith, who shows ingratitude."

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Al-Malat faults some "government writers" in AL-AHRAM, communist writers in AL-AHALI, and some AL-WAFD writers for attacking the Muslim Brotherhood and trying to link it with political violence. But he thanks one AL-WAFD writer, Muhammad al-Hayawan, for defending the Brotherhood's right to engage in constitutional political activity. He also praises Liberal Party Deputy Secretary General Muhammad Farid Zakariya for his defense of the Brotherhood in his articles in AL-AHRAR.

Al-Malat reviews the Muslim Brotherhood's contributions to Muslim causes: during the 1948 Palestine war, which "would have turned out differently" had it not been for "defective weapons;" in Afghanistan, where, he says, the Brotherhood made medical, educational, and engineering contributions; and in Bosnia- Herzegovina, where the Brotherhood sent relief committees, which saved many from hunger or death from injuries.

Of the Muslim Brothers' contributions in Yemen, he says: "Ask Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih about the contributions made by Muslim Brotherhood medical missions during that accursed war conducted by the communist remnants in Yemen."

Al-Malat recalls Brotherhood founder Hasan al-Banna's declaration that "politics is part of Islam" and that "anyone who does not get involved in the affairs of Muslims is not a Muslim."

He cites al-Banna saying: "In Islam God left nothing for Caesar; indeed Caesar and all that belongs to him is God's."

BROTHERHOOD WARNS OF PALESTINIAN INFIGHTING, WEAPONS COLLECTION

On page 6 the following unattributed report appears: "The Muslim Brotherhood has warned of the increasing prospect of infighting between the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian jihad factions. In a press release two days ago [16 April], the Muslim Brothers affirmed that Palestinian domestic strife is banned by Islamic teachings and that the various parties involved in this dispute, particularly the Palestinian Administration, must end it immediately so that it might not lead to civil war. The Brotherhood's statement pointed out that the purpose of the Oslo Agreement is to turn the Palestinian Administration into a police force defending Jewish settlers against rock-throwing children and the men of the intifadah. The statement said the Palestinian people have the right to resist occupation and that it is impermissible, under any pretext, to take their weapons away from them."

WRITER LAMENTS LACK OF RESPONSE TO ISRAELI SATELLITE PROGRAM

In a 2,500-word article under the headline "The Dangers of the Israeli Satellite and the Irresolute Response" on page 2, Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn warns of the implications of Israel's satellite program and laments the absence of any Arab, or Egyptian, response. Husayn reviews Israel's military character and its consistent pursuit of scientific and technological capability. He says that it previously sought and obtained technological capability from Britain, France, and the United States and is now seeking to get the same benefits from Russia, Japan, China, and other Asian countries. He reviews Israel's success in developing missiles with progressively longer ranges and notes that Egypt's missiles lag far behind.

On this issue, he says: "Israel has tested the missile Jericho in the Mediterranean. It has a range of 1,450 km and, according to some estimates, some of its developed versions, which carry satellites, have a range of 4,000 km; they are capable of being developed to a range of 6,000 km, that is, if they have not achieved this range already. Compare this with the Egyptian missiles, which have a range of 50-130 km. The Israeli intelligence service recently announced that Egypt has missiles with a 300-km range (perhaps they mean modified Scuds). Even so, they cannot compare with the Israeli missiles."

He says he regrets the Egyptian reaction to the launch of Israel's first satellite, OFFEQ 1, in 1988 and cites one Egyptian official as saying: "Arab airspace is full of U.S. and Soviet Satellites anyway." And he cites another saying: "The Israeli satellite is not sufficient for espionage work."

He compares this reaction with the rapid U.S. reaction to the launch of the USSR's Sputnik 1 in 1957 that led to the launch of the first U.S. satellite only months later. He adds that seven years after the launch of Israel's first satellite, Egypt has done nothing at all.

Husayn lists the "dangers" of Israeli satellites. He says they can eavesdrop on Arab communications, jam Arab warning systems, assist in aiming Israeli conventional and nuclear weapons at their targets, photograph Arab military targets, and give earlier warning about the launch of Arab missiles.

Declaring that Israel has begun to exploit space for "military espionage" and also for civilian purposes, he declares that Egypt has placed itself "outside the competition."

In conclusion he says: "Despite the bitter taste in our mouths, we will never advocate despair. Despair is incompatible with life. Rather we have despaired of you, o rulers. We understand one thing: Your remaining in power despite your disgraceful record is a divine sign. It is a sign of God's displeasure. When will you show us your pleasure, o God? We worship you night and day."

REPORT DISCUSSES TRANSFER OF TEACHERS ON SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS

In a 2,500-word report on page 3 headlined "The Teachers' Massacre on the Education Minister's Directives," 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad discusses the transfer of teachers from their schools on the recommendation of the Education Ministry's Security Office and the State Security Detectives Agency.

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The writer interviews several people who have been transferred. They include Firyal al-Hamuli, a school principal, who was transferred to a town far from her home and moved to a desk job where she has no real work to do. She says that commuting to her new job costs more than she can afford and uses up long hours that she needs to care for her sick husband and six sons. She believes she was transferred because she joined an Islamic list during elections for the Teachers Association and because she wears the veil.

Husayn 'Abd-al-Fattah, a teacher of English in a Cairo neighborhood public school, was transferred to Qina in Upper Egypt. He complains that commuting to his new job "consumes his paltry salary."

The report says 'Abd-al-Fattah was accused of organizing Koran- teaching sessions in the school's mosque for his students and encouraging them not to attend a school show in which public performers were present.

The report says other teachers were transferred for "exhorting female students to wear the veil."

ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION PROTESTS RECEIVERSHIP ORDER

In a 300-word item on page 1, Khalid Yunus reports that the Egyptian Engineers Association, which went into receivership by a court order in March 1995, protested the renewal of the receivership order by a Cairo court. The report says that the Engineers Association Council has decided to continue its normal functions pending a decision on current appeals against the receivership order.

MINISTRY SAID SUSPENDING YMMA ACTIVITIES

In a 100-word report on page 1, 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im says that the Social Affairs Ministry has suspended the activities of the General Headquarters of the Young Men's Muslim Associations [YMMA] and has refused to allow a YMMA general assembly to meet since 1987. The report adds that as a result of this ban, no elections could be held to elect a new YMMA board of directors and the current board, which originally had 15 members, now has only four, because the rest have died.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 21 Apr

NC2804183495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 21 April edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Panic Said Gripping U.S. After Oklahoma Bombing

2. Libya Breaks Blockade

3. Shukri Praises Antinormalization Protesters

4. Israeli Satellite Said Targeting Islamic Movements

5. Group Sponsors Campaign for Release of Lawyers

6. University Students Arrested, Expelled

7. Cultural Assimilation Rejected

8. Writer Views Confrontation With "Great Satan," Nuclear Bomb

PANIC SAID GRIPPING U.S. AFTER OKLAHOMA BOMBING

An unattributed 400-word report on page 1 notes that a "wave of fear and anxiety has gripped the U.S. people and officials following the devastating explosion that took place in front of a federal government building in Oklahoma City," in America's heartland. The report notes that official U.S. circles have not accused any party of being responsible for the blast, but "the Zionist circles in the U.S. media have begun to point to Middle Eastern organizations in preparation for pinning the blame on Islamic organizations."

LIBYA BREAKS BLOCKADE

In a 1,500-word report on pages 1 and 6, Layla 'Abd-al-Hamid notes that the Arab and Islamic world has received with "satisfaction" and "joy" Libya's success in breaking the unjust blockade imposed by the United States and the West against the Libyan people. The report adds: "In a legendary defiance of the U.S. and Western arrogance, a Libyan Boeing 707 passenger plane the day before yesterday carried approximately 150 pilgrims from Benghazi airport to Jeddah airport at 1507 Cairo time."

SHUKRI PRAISES ANTINORMALIZATION PROTESTERS

In an 800-word report on pages 1 and 6, Jamal Imbabi highlights Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri's remarks in a ceremony held at the Nasirite Party on 19 April to honor 47 detainees who protested Israel's participation in the recent Cairo International Fair. The detainees, mostly from the Nasirite Party, include five members of the Labor Party. In his remarks, Shukri affirmed that imposing Israel's participation at the fair by force was humiliating to the Egyptian people and government. Praising the stance of the youth who protested the matter, Shukri pointed out that Israel must realize that the Egyptian people reject normalization with it.

ISRAELI SATELLITE SAID TARGETING ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS

An unattributed 150-word report on page 8 highlights Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks to an Israeli paper that the recently launched Israeli satellite OFEQ-3 seeks to serve Israeli intelligence purposes in confronting the Islamic movements.

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Writing on the same topic, Labor Party official Tal'at Musallam writes that Israel's launching of this satellite must not be treated as the end of the world. In an 800-word article on page 3, Musallam notes that the harm resulting from this satellite can be minimized. He notes that while Israel needs satellites to obtain information about Arab states that are beyond its reach by conventional methods, the Arabs, if they have the willpower, can obtain information on Israel with the naked eye through the Palestinians living in the occupied territories or by other conventional methods, such as air reconnaissance flights and other methods. In the meantime, he adds, the Arabs must not give up on the option of developing a capability for launching their own satellites despite the obstacles in this regard, chiefly from the United States, which places tight restrictions on the Arabs' bid to have access to nuclear and space technology while assisting Israel in the same fields.

GROUP SPONSORS CAMPAIGN FOR RELEASE OF LAWYERS

An unattributed 900-word report on page 6 notes that the Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO] has decided to sponsor a campaign to secure the release of 44 lawyers "illegally detained" by the authorities. EHRO believes that the continued detention of these lawyers without being charged or tried is a violation of the law and the Constitution, the report adds. The report notes that most of these lawyers are locked up for their frequent visits to detainees held in connection with terrorist cases. The lawyers are accused of conveying instructions from terrorist elements inside the prisons to their colleagues outside. Some of the lawyers have obtained release orders by the prosecution or rulings from military and civilian courts, but thanks to the broad powers of detention enjoyed by the Interior Ministry, new detention orders are issued against them under the emergency law, the report adds. Under the campaign, EHRO intends to issue periodic statements about the detained lawyers and to correspond with international groups about the matter. EHRO urged the Egyptian authorities to release the detained lawyers; a list of their names giving the place and date of their detention is published opposite the report.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARRESTED, EXPELLED

In an approximately 150-word report, Fakhir Mahmud from al-Fayyum notes that security forces carried out an extensive arrest campaign against Islamist students in the Arab and Islamic Studies College on Sunday 16 April. In addition, the report adds that 10 students have been expelled from the al-Fayyum University in connection with a ceremony that the Islamic current wanted to hold at the university. The ceremony was banned one day before its scheduled date following "pressure" by the security authorities.

CULTURAL ASSIMILATION REJECTED

Islamic writer Dr. Muhammad Muru, in an 800-word article on page 9 entitled "The Overall Cultural Confrontation," notes that Islam has created a distinctive civilization and a unique cultural identity for the Islamic nation based on monotheism, justice, and freedom. This culture, he argues, calls for cooperation with and benefiting from others' experiences, but it definitely rejects assimilation into and submission to other cultures. Noting that the Western civilization is based on oppression, plunder, violence, and racism while our Islamic civilization is based on monotheism, freedom, justice, and non- racism, he asks: How could we assimilate into a culture that wants to finish off the Islamic civilization? He notes that the West refuses to share its scientific and technological advances with others, particularly Muslims. Therefore, he adds, "we have no choice but to grab hold of science," and since the Western civilization does not want cooperation, confrontation is the answer. The confrontation, he adds, can be attained by refusing assimilation into the Western culture, consolidating the cultural identity of our nation, and mobilizing the entire people to combat colonialism and Zionism. Concluding, he adds: "In all cases, submission and assimilation mean cultural death for us. Confrontation may also mean death or too much loss, but it may also mean victory in the end. For submission means the death of the branches, the trunk, and the seeds of a tree, while patience and confrontation may result in the destruction of the branches and the trunk, but the seeds will remain dormant under the soil waiting to produce a new trunk and new branches under better circumstances, so that the tree may grow once again."

WRITER VIEWS CONFRONTATION WITH "GREAT SATAN," NUCLEAR BOMB

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, in an approximately 4,000-word article on page 5, notes that our people are following with interest the New York meetings to discuss the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which seeks to perpetuate the monopoly on nuclear weapons by a few nations, with their eye on the Israeli nuclear arsenal. Husayn adds that this, however, should not make us lose sight of the broader picture; namely, that the world is not made up of one solid bloc united against the Islamic awakening. Husayn explains that the "current superiority of the United States in international relations is not overwhelming" and that the "struggling Islamic states can cooperate with many influential and effective world powers to confront the U.S. Great Satan and its Zionist satellite." Husayn notes that the most important and urgent alliance is the one between our Arab and Islamic world with the oppressed nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, who fear from the nuclear weapons more than anyone else. He notes that the membership of China in the world atomic club should not be underestimated, for China in a few years will be in the lead of nations and it is important for us to benefit from this great shift. Turning to India,

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another nuclear power, he notes that a fanatic Hindu trend is on the rise in India and that Israel and the West are trying to steer it against Muslims. He notes that it is the duty of the Islamists to work in the opposite direction and to expand Arab and Islamic cooperation with India. Turning to the United States' bid to secure a majority of votes to extend the treaty, Husayn points out that the success of this endeavor is doubtful. He adds that even if the United States succeeds in securing enough votes to extend the treaty indefinitely, the actual goal of the treaty, which is the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, will be hard to attain. In this regard, Husayn refers to the spread of illegal trade in nuclear weapons. He quotes an adviser of French President Mitterrand as saying that nuclear weapons are "accessible to anyone who has a few million dollars to spend in this field." Husayn adds that "buying a single ready-made atomic bomb is also possible; that is, the matter does not necessarily require experience in manufacturing and production." He continues: "We will not need a huge arsenal, as the case is with the major nuclear powers. Possessing the capability to deliver a single bomb to the positions of the enemies will be enough to instill fright in their hearts." He adds: "Our bid to confront the nuclear weapons of Israel, and others, will therefore not end with the passing of a treaty (with a small majority) that states that this is forbidden. The confrontation will continue, but it requires will, science, and secrecy."

Husayn explains that the nuclear threat is not the only weapon being used to weaken our nation and impose capitulation. He refers to a seminar organized by the Dayan Research Institute in Israel and published in the newspaper AL-'ARABI on 20 March about Israel's use of minorities in the Arab world to create unrest and stir sedition, as the case is in South Sudan. After reviewing the resistance and accomplishments of Muslims in Lebanon, Algeria, Sudan, Iraq, and Iran, he concludes by saying that the strugglers are defeating the "schemes of the enemies" in all areas and that with patience and perseverance, "we can abort the seditions, unify the ranks, and consequently proceed toward possessing the tools of power that may deter the Zionists and their American allies."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 25 Apr

NC0105105095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 25 April issue of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Labor Party Sends Cable of Condolences to Clinton on Oklahoma

2. U.S. Aircraft Carriers Said To Jam Telecommunications for Libyan Plane

3. Labor Party, MB Figures Attend Coptic Easter Celebrations

4. Husayn Terms Libyan Airliner Feat 'Symbolic Victory'

5. Association Appeals to Lawyers To Participate in Release Campaign

6. Teachers Demand Resignation of Education Minister

7. Reports Claiming World Islamic Council Terrorist Group Criticized

8. MB Denounces Oklahoma Blast, Offers Condolences

9. Mashhur Analyzes Palestinian Cause, Hamas Stance

10. Al-Ghazali Reminds Muslims That Offering Aid Is Islamic Duty

LABOR PARTY SENDS CABLE OF CONDOLENCES TO CLINTON ON OKLAHOMA

Page one carries a short 100 word report that Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri sent a cable of condolences to U.S. President Bill Clinton. In the cable, Shukri affirms the Labor Party's "firm and declared position completely rejecting all forms of terrorism against innocent people." The cable stresses the need for intensifying international efforts to eliminate the social, economic, and political causes of terrorism.

U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS SAID TO JAM TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR LIBYAN PLANE

A 200-word report on page two cites responsible sources at the Civil Aviation Authority that the U.S. aircraft carriers in the Red Sea jammed telecommunications in Egyptian airspace when the Libyan airliner carrying pilgrims to Jeddah was flying overhead. The U.S. objective, it was said, was to monitor the Egyptian planes carrying Libyan pilgrims and to make sure no other Libyan planes violate the ban on air travel.

LABOR PARTY, MB FIGURES ATTEND COPTIC EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Pages one and six publish a 500-word report about the Coptic Easter celebrations which were attended by Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, and Lawyers' Association Secretary General Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna. Coptic Pope Shanudah reiterated the Coptic stance rejecting normalization with the Zionist enemy and refusing travel to Israel. 'Adil Husayn also delivered a speech in which he asked the Copts to integrate themselves in political action, saying: "This requires great effort by Muslims and Copts alike, and the parties have a great role to play in this field." Husayn refers to past examples of Coptic activity in party political life.

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HUSAYN TERMS LIBYAN AIRLINER FEAT 'SYMBOLIC VICTORY'

A 2500-word article by Majdi Ahmad Husayn on page two comments on the "symbolic victory" scored by the Libyan airliner which violated the ban and flew to Jeddah carrying Libyan pilgrims. He describes this incident as a battle of wills between "the determined Libyan will and the determined U.S. will" in which the Libyan Arab will triumphed. He notes that the Arab nation's battles in the near future will not depend on military superiority or power, but on "the weapon of coolness and composure" and "the weapon of martyrdom." Husayn gives examples of cases in history where these two weapons triumphed over the occupier, such as in India. He expresses his anger over the indifference of some Arab countries to the fact that three Muslim Arab nations cannot actually perform the pilgrimage without the permission of the "Zionists and Americans." He presents the scenario of three or four Arab countries violating the ban and flying over Iraq and Libya, and wonders: "Can the United States impose a siege on three or four other Arab countries in one go?" His answer is "of course not." He concludes that the problem of the Arabs lies in the weakness of their rulers. These rulers are "sick at heart and cannot realize any triumphs for the rights of the nation in the same way they realize triumphs for the 'rights' of their ruling thrones." They do not comprehend the progress taking place beneath the surface. These rulers will be carried away by the flood, he concludes.

ASSOCIATION APPEALS TO LAWYERS TO PARTICIPATE IN RELEASE CAMPAIGN

Page three carries an appeal in the form of an advertisment in large print by the Lawyers' Association calling on all members to participate in the campaign organized by the Association to release the detained lawyers whose release has been ordered but not carried out. The appeal is signed by Lawyers' Association Secretary General lawyer Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam, the two rapporteurs of the Freedoms' Committee lawyers Bushra 'Asfur and Ra'fat Sayf, and lawyers' doyen lawyer Ahmad al-Khawajah. The ad carries further details of the campaign, its activities, and meetings dates and whereabouts, etc.

TEACHERS DEMAND RESIGNATION OF EDUCATION MINISTER

Page four carries a 3000-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammmad on the general assembly meeting of the Teachers' Association to take place Wednesday 26 April, in which the teachers will be demanding the resignation of Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din for violating the law, transferring 4000 teachers to administrative jobs, exiling them to remote governorates, and changing the curricula. The report cites the Islamic current's candidate in al- Jizah on the Islamists demands, which primarily revolve around improving the material conditions for teachers. The Islamic current will also concentrate heavily on the issue of transferring teachers to administrative jobs and exiling them to remote governorates.

REPORTS CLAIMING WORLD ISLAMIC COUNCIL TERRORIST GROUP CRITICIZED

Page four also publishes a 1000-word article by Mahfuz 'Azzam in which he comments on a report published in AL-AHRAM newspaper citing a Kuwait-datelined MENA item about investigations going on in Kuwait to find out how Dr. Ashraf 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, a physician member of the Doctors' Association suspected of leading a terrorist organization in Egypt, entered Kuwait to take part in the meetings of "the so-called" World Islamic Council for the Call and Relief. The writer wonders how the Islamic Council, an internationally renowned organization that offers aid and relief to Muslims around the world, can be equated with terrorism when many of its members are Awqaf ministers of Islamic countries and when the head is the al-Azhar shaykh himself. The writer asks that MENA and AL-AHRAM verify such information before publishing it. He also with irony wonders why al-Azhar shaykh is not accused of being a member of a terrorist organization since he heads the Council.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD DENOUNCES OKLAHOMA BLAST, OFFERS CONDOLENCES

Page five publishes a 100-word report in which the Muslim Brotherhood condemns the Oklahoma blast and offers condolences to the American people. They condemn all those who hastened to accuse Muslims of the blast.

MASHHUR ANALYZES PALESTINIAN CAUSE, HAMAS STANCE

Mustafa Mashhur, in a 1500-word article on page five, discusses the question of Palestine which he believes "is going from bad to worse." He discusses the stances and behavior of the enemy and those who help it, first reviewing its successes so far and then the measures it uses now. He discusses the enemy's stance on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty; its application of pressure on Jordan to expel Hamas and Islamic Jihad; its continued shooting at the stone-throwing children in the occupied territories; its continued arrests of Hamas and Islamic Jihad elements. Mashhur then discusses the stances and behavior of the Palestinian Authority and concentrates on 'Arafat's failure to offer the Palestinians anything and his failure to meet promises. Mashhur then reviews the stances of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, who he claims believes its jihad against the enemy is a legitimate right. However, Hamas has decided that its jihad should be contained inside Palestine, not outside it, and should be restricted against the enemy, not against the Palestinians. "The Islamic Resistance calls on the Arab and Islamic countries and nations to support its stance against the enemy. This is a religious duty imposed by Islam on all the Muslims. The question of Palestine is not the cause of Hamas and Islamic Jihad alone, but of all the Muslims," Mashhur writes.

Mashhur then notes the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian people, who are suffering a great deal. He says:

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"It seems that the Zionist enemy concluded the Oslo Agreement so that it will be able to impose its grip on the Palestinian territory and people using Palestinian hands." The people were fooled and told that funds would flow in, but only trickles arrived. Thus, through its policy, the enemy is pushing the Palestinian people toward internal conflict. Mashhur concludes his article by warning the Muslims around the world that they are responsible for any lack of aid to the Palestinians. He also affirms "that the future, even if distant, will be in favor of the cause and the enemy shall be defeated, God willing."

AL-GHAZALI REMINDS MUSLIMS THAT OFFERING AID IS ISLAMIC DUTY

Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, in his 500-word "This Is Our Religion" column on page 12, discusses the case of a Muslim Bosnian family who handed over its children to a foreign aid agency so that they would be taken out of Bosnia for safety reasons. Some time later, the mother saw pictures of her children in Spain with crosses round their necks. Al-Ghazali criticizes this incident and the Muslims for not taking action and helping such a Muslim family in need. He says: "We could have, according to our religious traditions, opened our homes to these victims to preserve their future. But we did not." He reminds Muslims that offering shelter and aid to Muslims in need is an Islamic duty.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh, Albright Discuss Settlement Activities

JN0205145095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 May 95

[From the "Today's Events" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture in the Palestinian National Authority, met with Mrs. Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, in Jericho today. Talks focused on the peace process and the Israeli Government's failure to honor the commitments it has made regarding halting settlement activities. Details of this are contained in the following report compiled by colleague Kamal 'Alawinah:

[Begin recording] ['Alawinah] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture in the National Authority, has met with Mrs. Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, in Jericho today. The talks focused on the regional peace process and Israeli settlement activities in the Palestinian territories in general, and in the city of Jerusalem in particular. On this, we have met with Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and held the following dialogue with him:

Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture in the National Authority. You met with Mrs. Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, in Jericho today. What are the issues you have discussed?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The major issue that we have discussed concerns settlement activities in Jerusalem. The Palestinian side maintained that these activities will deal a physical blow to the political process, and undermine the Palestinian rights in Jerusalem and other Palestinian territories. Moreover, we argued that these activities constitute a flagrant violation of the commitments and pledges the Israeli Government made ahead of the signing of the Declaration of Principles in Washington.

The Israeli Government, represented by its foreign minister, has pledged not to undermine the Palestinians' rights, particularly in the city of Jerusalem. The recent decision of the Israeli Government headed by Yitzhaq Rabin to confiscate Palestinian land in order to provide Jewish housing in Jerusalem is obviously a flagrant violation. This decision is a blatant attempt to kill the political process and render settlement expansion condonable by the Palestinians. We have maintained that these activities will produce highly serious results and repercussions on the Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, Christian, and international levels. We cannot accept the continuation of these settlement activities, nor can we condone the violation of Palestinian rights.

Since the convening of the Madrid conference, the United States had committed itself—and we asserted this to Mrs. Albright—to the principle that no party should engage in efforts to change the status quo in a manner that prejudges the outcome of the negotiations. This should have remained the case until the status of Jerusalem is decided in the final status negotiations. The United States has committed itself to this principle. Given the fact that she is the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, we told her that we will lodge a complaint in this regard with the UN Security Council, and that we will follow it up on various levels.

I believe that the current [U.S.] Administration is committed to face up to these violations. The current administration should not turn its back on us, nor should it argue that this is a bilateral Palestinian-Israeli affair. It is to be recalled that the peace process is not a bilateral affair. It is a regional and international affair at the same time.

['Alawinah] Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh: Do you believe that the United States will apply political and economic pressures on the Israeli Government to bring about a halt to settlement activities and the confiscation of Palestinian lands in the West Bank in general, and in Jerusalem in particular.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Frankly speaking, I would like to say that the current U.S. Administration is not playing a positive role, as should be the case. The current U.S. Administration might be different from previous administrations in that it does not take the stands and measures necessitated by the current state of affairs although settlement activities pose serious dangers to the peace process. I do not mean that previous U.S. administrations played positive roles in this regard. Nevertheless, what I would

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like to say is that the current U.S. position is worse than that espoused by previous administrations. This cannot promote the peace process neither on the Palestinian level, nor on the Arab and regional levels. We tell all sides, be they Arab, Muslim, or foreign, that they should not pursue efforts to establish or normalize relations with Israel when the latter is jeopardizing Jerusalem, the status of Jerusalem, and the rights of the Palestinians' in Jerusalem and to Jerusalem's holy shrines. We should not forget the excavations currently under way under Islamic holy shrines. All this is highly detrimental, not to mention the violations and encroachments being perpetrated against the Palestinians, Palestinian property, and Palestinian lands in the heart of Hebron to promote the interests of extremist settler groups there.

['Alawinah] Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh: Almost one year after the National Authority arrived in the homeland, how would you evaluate the Palestinian-U.S. relationship in the upcoming phase?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Regrettably, not much has changed. In the aftermath of the signing of the Declaration of Principles in Washington in September 1993, the Palestinians were promised that the Congress would pass a decision authorizing dealings with the PLO and the reopening of the PLO Office as well. Nothing in this regard has thus far been done. Pretexts and reasons that I frankly deem unconvincing have been advanced to justify the failure to make any moves in this regard. This is a violation of the commitments we have received. Worse still, the U.S. position was not positive in the recent Paris meeting, which convened to discuss aid and assistance to the Palestinian Authority. The Americans pushed for reducing rather than increasing this aid, as we have learned.

['Alawinah] Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture in the National Authority: Thank you.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Thank you.

['Alawinah] In an exclusive statement to the Voice of Palestine Madeleine Albright, U.S. representative to the United Nations, has said:

[Albright in English, with superimposed Arabic translation] Well, we had a broad-ranging discussion about the issues related to the peace process and the need to push the peace process forward.

['Alawinah] The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations added that she believes the Palestinians are frustrated over some issues related to the peace process, as some Palestinian officials have noted.

With regard to the United States, Albright said that the commitments U.S. President Bill Clinton made to the Palestinians at the White House in 1993 will be acted on. She explained that she would tell her colleagues in Washington about the remarks she heard from the Palestinian official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. [end recording]

Further Reaction to Israeli Land Confiscation

'Arafat Appeals to World Leaders

JN0205194195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat today sent letters to the kings, amirs, and prime ministers of the Arab and Islamic countries; to the heads of state of the nonaligned countries; and to the leaders of regional and international organizations concerning Israel's recent violations and its confiscation of land in Jerusalem. In his letters, President Yasir 'Arafat said: Out of our historic responsibilities at this critical and sensitive stage facing the cause and just struggle of our Palestinian people, I would like to explain to you our delicate situation and the serious Israeli measures against holy Jerusalem. These measures coincide with efforts to further isolate the holy city, oppress its residents and impose high taxes on them, close Palestinian institutions, and destroy economic life in the city in order to empty it of its Palestinian residents and to Judaize and annex the holy city.

His excellency also said: These Israeli measures coincide with the confiscation of 530 dunums of Palestinian territories within the framework of a new settlement plan to expropriate approximately 4,400 dunums of the territories of the city of Jerusalem to build new Israeli settlements in violation of all the international laws, norms, and resolutions, including UN Security Council resolutions and the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention. They also constitute a serious and flagrant violation of the Palestinian- Israeli Declaration of Principles accord, which was signed under the auspices of the United States and the Russian Federation in Washington and Cairo.

In his letters, President Yasir 'Arafat added: This flagrant violation of the accords signed between us and the Israeli Governments is threatening the peace process and may also lead to its collapse. In other words, peace itself will be liable to collapse. Therefore, we urge the Israeli Government to stop all measures and orders pertaining to the settlement process and the confiscation of Palestinian territories in the West Bank in general and in the holy city of Jerusalem in particular, to end the closure of the city before the Palestinian people, and to halt Israel's excavations in the holy city of Jerusalem, which have reached the courtyard of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque, and which are threatening its foundations.

President 'Arafat added: In light of these practices and dangers threatening the holy city of Jerusalem and the occupied Palestinian territories, we appeal to you to use your influence and weight both in the regional and international arenas, to quickly move to confront this serious situation, put an end to all these Israeli violations, and compel Israel to rescind its orders and decisions in this regard. To achieve this goal, the international community should exercise real and responsible

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pressure stemming from its desire to see the peace process continue and achieve its goals in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Sha'th Condemns 'Threat' to Peace

NC0305064895 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 3 May 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] The Israeli decision to confiscate Palestinian land in Jerusalem and the earlier Israeli proposal to set up a Palestinian state in Gaza make us ask: Where are negotiations between you and Israel heading?

[Sha'th] The negotiations are encountering difficulties. They are almost paralyzed. What should have been completed in July 1994—the Israeli withdrawal from the towns and villages of the West Bank, the public election of a Palestinian legislative council, and the release of all prisoners—has not been achieved. This obstructs the political process.

If we add to this the continuing settlement activity and the confiscation of land in Jerusalem, the biggest problem becomes not only a state of paralysis, but a threat to the peaceful process, particularly since these practices violate our entitlement to the dearest spot of land, Jerusalem. There was an agreement to freeze the status of Jerusalem until negotiations start in May or June 1996. But the confiscation of land, the embargo, and the closure violate our rights and create adverse conditions for the peace process, international legitimacy, and all the UN resolutions we all agreed to respect until we reach a final solution. This is what prompted us to invite the Arab League, the United Nations, the UN Security Council, the Organization of Islamic Conference and all the international organizations concerned with Jerusalem to meet and help us stop the aggression on the city of Jerusalem.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Does the Israel decision represent an attempt to change the Jerusalem file?

[Sha'th] It is an Israeli attempt to create reality, as they call it, by replacing the Palestinian landowners with Israeli settlers. This violates all the points on which we agreed. It violates our rights to Jerusalem, which should be negotiated, to return east Jerusalem, Arab Jerusalem, as a capital to the Palestinian state that should be established once we reach a final solution.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Let me ask you about the Israeli proposals and decisions, which all conflict with the Oslo Agreement. What are the implications of these statements, since July has been set as a final date for reaching an agreement on the elections?

[Sha'th] This new promise came a year late. The old date was 13 July 1994. To tell you the truth, I do not find real seriousness in the new promise. Actions, statements, and events do not inspire the seriousness desired two months before reaching an agreement. This is what we will discuss among other things at the meeting to be held in Cairo by the Higher Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee on 7 May, just before 'Id al-Adha.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Does this mean that 1st July might not be the final date and that negotiations might go beyond it?

[Sha'th] The date itself was a violation. Violating that date would be too much violation. We want to reach an agreement on that date. But what Israel is doing does not give the impression that it is truly committed.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What will the Palestinian position be if Israel persists with its policy?

[Sha'th] We have been committed to the peace process and we are bound by its terms. We say the peace process is a strategic process and that both parties should respect it without going back to violence and armed struggle. We are still negotiating with the Israelis at the negotiating table and away from it.

I appeal to the two peace sponsors, Egypt, the UN Security Council, the Arab League, Norway, Europe, and Japan to do something. The supposition is that Israel will eventually respond to this process. The Palestinian people have long been patient. They can be patient longer. But everything has its limits. We want this process to succeed rather than go beyond a date that makes it hard for a person to maintain his commitment to this peaceful process.

Habash Urges 'Collective' Response

MM0205150395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 May 95 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Habash Urges Those Opposed to Oslo Agreement To Make Collective Move Against Settlement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has urged the Palestinian organizations and forces rejecting the Oslo agreement to make "a collective move" against the Israelis' decision to confiscate 53 hectares of land from east Jerusalem, and to "expose the destructive agreement" signed by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

In a statement distributed in Damascus yesterday Habash said that the Israeli Government's decision to "annex the lands of Arab Jerusalem to Jerusalem's unified municipality falls in the framework of nibbling at Arab Jerusalem and surrounding it with more settlements—which confirms the Israeli policy aimed at Judaizing Jerusalem and isolating its Palestinian Arab inhabitants from their Palestinian environment both

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geographically and demographically, with a view to perpetuating the Israeli Government's claim to Jerusalem as the eternal united capital of Israel."

The PFLP secretary general added that the Israeli Government's decision "violates the resolutions of international legitimacy and the rules of international law. And it also reveals the true face of the so-called peace process, which was launched on the basis of the Israeli concept, namely to control and confiscate the land and to put the Palestinians in isolated areas surrounded by belts of settlements."

He urged "all our people's sons—the owners of the land—to make a move to confront the onslaught with all their capabilities. Because the battle for the land is the first and last with the Zionist."

He also urged "all the national and Islamic forces rejecting the Oslo option to make a united move to confront the onslaught and expose the destructive agreement."

He believes that supporters of the Oslo agreement "are urged today to abandon the destructive policy and to give up their delusions and the claim that the humiliating agreement carries within itself an independent state."

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has stressed the "unity" of all Palestinian forces and organizations "in order to complete the struggle march and achieve the aims." In a statement issued in Damascus yesterday on the occasion of Labor Day he pointed out that unemployment in the Gaza Strip has exceeded 60 percent.

The DFLP accused the Palestinian self-rule authority of "colluding with Israel in the attack on the freedom of expression and on the organization in the occupied territories." And in reply to the "attack" on the Jerusalem-based UMMAH newspaper it called for "showing solidarity with the Palestinian press, which is being exposed to a two-sided campaign from both Israel and the administrative self-rule authority."

Move Will 'Torpedo' Oslo Accord

TA0205180395 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 29 Apr 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Not Just a Violation!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli settlement plans and the land confiscations that were disclosed yesterday—whether in terms of the plan to confiscate 4,400 dunams of East Jerusalem lands for establishing Jewish settlement neighborhoods on them, or the plans to expand settlements and confiscate land in other parts of the West Bank—reaffirm that the realities that Israeli bulldozers are drawing daily in the occupied Palestinian territories differ completely from the intentions of peace or the desire to achieve it. They also reaffirm that the grave repercussions of these realities are threatening the credibility of the peace process since this process has been transformed into a mere cover for imposing Israel's positions in the transitional and subsequent stage.

Evidently the settlement plans, whose implementation is continuing and has not stopped for a single day since the signing of the Oslo accord, give a new and grave dimension to the intentional delay in implementing the accord's second stage under various pretexts and justifications. Moreover, they affirm that Israel gives priority to imposing settlement realities, thereby ignoring not only the agreements that it signed with the Palestinian side but international legitimacy, its resolutions, and all statements of condemnation and denunciation.

Hence, what is taking place is not just a violation of this or that clause of the accord, nor just a flagrant violation of the spirit of the accord signed between the two sides, but is an attempt to torpedo the accord and draw the outlines of "a solution" precisely as Israel wants and in a way that is incompatible even with the minimal requirements of achieving peace.

The question that should be posed today is not how seriously will the peace process be affected by these acts, nor how much credibility has remained from the peacemaking intentions, but rather what can be done on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels to save the peace process from the danger of collapse in the face of the continuous nibbling away at the occupied Palestinian territories and intensive settlement construction. This, after it has been absolutely and clearly proven that statements of condemnation and denunciation, or recalling the resolutions of international legitimacy and the provisions of agreements, are no longer effective.

This reality affirms the real dilemma facing the peace process. That calls for a serious review and intensive efforts to determine the steps that should be taken, foremost of all placing the cosponsors of the talks before their responsibilities regarding the current deteriorating situation, and placing the international community before its responsibility to ensure that the peace process is not diverted from the realization of its goals. More important than all this, however, is not to allow the continued use of the term "peace process" as a cover to impose the current realities.

In sum, it should be clear that wagering on the continuation of the peace process amid the reality of land confiscation, continuous settlement activity, continued delay in implementing the accords, and adherence to the illusion that it is possible to reconcile these contradictions is tantamount to wagering on a mirage. That is because aspiring to peace is a goal that completely differs from the realities of reinforcing the occupation through new-old methods and pretexts.

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Official: Rabin Interested in Elections, Not Peace

TA0305104695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Furayh Abu-Middayn, the Palestinian Authority official in charge of justice, says the planned expropriation of land in East Jerusalem is an attempt by the Labor Party to gain popularity. Abu-Middayn told Qol Yisra'el that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is more interested in winning elections than in succeeding in the peace process. He called on Arab states to stop normalization of ties with Israel in all areas.

'Ministers' Contemplate Resigning Over Peace Process

TA0205131695 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 1 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MANAR has learned that a number of ministers in the National Authority will submit their resignations if Israel does not implement its commitment with regard to redeploying in the West Bank and withdrawing from Palestinian towns by 1 July.

One of those ministers told AL-MANAR that he personally is not optimistic. Consequently, if no progress is achieved in the current talks with Israel, he will submit his resignation because he will find no rational and logical interpretation for remaining in the cabinet.

Senior Palestinian sources have said that a Palestinian minister might possibly submit his resignation to President Yasir 'Arafat within the next few days. These sources cited this minister as saying that he can no longer tolerate the fact that others are shouldering responsibilities that he himself is supposed to bear.

'Arafat: Shin Bet Cooperating With Gaza Terrorists

TA0205113895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 May 95 p 7

[Report by Eli Bohadana]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority head Yasir 'Arafat reiterated yesterday that the Israeli intelligence plans terrorist attacks in the Gaza Strip in cooperation with Islamic terrorists.

He made this statement in a meeting with a Peace Now representation, which included Dr. Mordekhay Bar'on, in Gaza.

The Peace Now activists presented 'Arafat with a big plaque announcing: "The Two States Must Be Separated." Having arrived to discuss the terror issue with 'Arafat, they were astounded when he said the Israeli Shin Bet was maintaining contacts with terrorist organizations and even steering their operations in Gaza. Movement representatives voiced their annoyance with and reservations from the remarks. 'Arafat went on to assert that he had informed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of the matter.

Referring to the East Jerusalem land expropriation, 'Arafat said it was a flagrant violation of the Palestinians' rights, but that "despite that and despite the pressure put on me by Arab countries and from within, I will not stop the peace process."

The Israeli representatives informed him of a series of steps designed to prevent expropriation, including an appeal to the High Court of Justice, which their movement was planning.

PA Asks Jordan To Supervise Self-Rule Elections

TA0205174995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has asked Jordan to participate in supervising the elections for the self-rule council. Our political affairs correspondents report that the PA has made a similar request to Egypt, Japan, Canada, Russia, Norway, and the EC to participate in the elections observer force, which will number about 1,000 observers.

In Jabalyah, situated in the Gaza Strip, Mr. 'Arafat today inaugurated the Palestinian Central Elections Committee headquarters and called on the Israeli Government to implement the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank in accordance with the Oslo accord, so that the Palestinians will be able to hold elections.

Our correspondent adds that the Israeli team that is negotiating with the Palestinians met today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and discussed various proposals relating to the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank.

Court Imposes First-Ever Death Sentence on Policeman

TA0205174695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Gaza military court issued a death sentence today against Tahir Faris, a Palestinian policeman who killed another policeman three days ago. It is worth noting that this is the first sentence of its kind in the Gaza Strip since the Palestinian Authority [PA] assumed the Strip's administration.

Hamas Commentary on PA Military Courts

95AA0133A London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Mar 95 p 23

[Article by Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah al-'Uwaysi]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The Cairo agreement signed on 4 May 1994, and its security annexes, reveal that the Zionist enemy wishes to ensure his security by means of the protectorate authority [Palestinian Authority [PA]. A careful reading of all incidents that have occurred since 4 May 1944 reveals without a doubt that the leadership of the protectorate authority is working hard to achieve this goal in gradual steps. Since the protectorate authority leadership took power in the protectorate, it has been intent on pursuing a "stick" policy in a programmed, systematic manner. Its goal is to impose its hegemony and dread on ordinary Palestinians and to prevent the Islamic opposition from using its most important rostrums and centers to make itself heard by ordinary Palestinians. In doing so, the protectorate authority hopes to subsequently suppress the Islamic opposition movement, limit its influence, and reduce its operations against the occupation as a prelude to developing relations with the occupation in the future—as most of the Arab countries are doing by oppressing and fighting the Islamic movement under various slogans.

Therefore, this authority has taken a number of preparatory measures. It has exercised all types of intimidation against various trends among the Palestinian people, especially the Islamic opposition, which is represented in mosques, institutes of the noble Koran, Islamic organizations, and the press and among legal and educational professionals. This authority escalated the tone of confrontation with the people when it repressively and arbitrarily arrested hundreds of members of the Islamic movement in the Gaza Strip a number of times. It did so against the backdrop of its failure and clear inability to solve the problems of the protectorate's residents (especially the economic problem, which is coming to a head in the rise in unemployment and poverty and in the shortage of resources), the asphyxiation of its leadership in the can of sardines into which it has been jammed, and the daily fare of degradation and series of insults [to which the leadership of the authority has been subjected]. Then, the authority perpetrated the slaughter at the Mosque of Palestine on 18 November 1994. It carried out that slaughter in the Zionist manner, revealing a dangerous aspect of the ugly face of the dirty work assigned by the occupation to the authority to carry out on its behalf.

Security Court of the Protectorate Authority

In a dangerous development that put a legal stamp on the arbitrary practices of the protectorate authority leadership, Colonel Hasan Abu-Labda', the director-general for justice affairs in the protectorate authority, announced that Yasir 'Arafat had signed a decree on 7 February to establish "a state security court to examine cases involving damage to national security" inside and outside the protectorate. He emphasized, on 12 February, that this court, whose president and judges would be military people, would try "persons responsible for operations targeting Israel and anyone who damages foreign relations...because the Palestinian authority desires stability and wishes to oppose anyone whose actions lead to a closure, unemployment, and instability."

Thus, a decision was made to establish this military court, which is reminiscent of the Zionist occupation's military courts. Five days after the end of the quadrilateral summit in Cairo on 2 February (which was an important achievement for the Zionist enemy, who was the primary beneficiary of it), the Zionist enemy obtained an unprecedented Palestinian pledge to act against the Islamic opposition, which, it emphasized, must be exterminated. The final statement of the summit mentions "the four parties' condemnation of the incidents of bloodshed, terrorism, and violence in the region and their reaffirmation of their determination to oppose them with force and to put an end to all such acts." Marwan Kanafani, Yasir 'Arafat's spokesman, said that, during the summit meeting, Rabin asked 'Arafat to strike against the Islamic opposition in Gaza. 'Arafat responded, saying, "The subject of violence by the Islamic movement is intermeshed and regional. Its causes are many.... In order to counter violence, these causes must be ascertained and ended."

If the decision by the authority's leadership to establish this court came days after the "antiterrorism summit," as Peres called it two days before it was held, it came as earnest money for the authority's adherence to its pledge (the decision was made two days before the failed Rabin-'Arafat meeting on 9 February near the Erez roadblock).

On 8 February, Shim'on Peres praised the efforts made by the protectorate authority leadership against the Islamicists in the Gaza Strip, especially its decision to form a military court [mahmiyah, meaning protectorate; read: mahkamah]. Peres stated, "During the past few days, the Palestinian authority has begun to take seriously the danger of terrorism originating in Gaza. I believe that they have the ability to handle it. They have shown that this is an alternative to our presence there...and the start of an attempt to curb the terrorist attacks."

Some supporters and defenders of the protectorate authority leadership claim that the decision to establish a state security court was intended to place an end to the matter of collaborators. Although we would hope this to be the case, reality points to the exact opposite. Abu-Labdah's statement clarifies the primary purpose of this court, namely to try anyone who resists the occupation on the argument that such resistance damages the protectorate's national security and boosts unemployment! This proves conclusively that the protectorate authority is a substitute, with a Palestinian name, for the Zionist occupation's military government. A court for trying collaborators is absolutely out of the question. It contradicts provisions of signed agreements, under which collaborators enjoy dual protection from the occupation and the authority, as stated in Article 21 of the Cairo

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agreement, where the protectorate authority leadership promises "not to try collaborators or to harm them in any way."

The protectorate authority leadership is rushing to break the bones of those whom Yasir 'Arafat is pursuing as part of the carrot and stick policy that he is following gradually vis-a-vis the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] movement. By signing a decision to establish a state security court, the protectorate authority leadership moves toward fulfilling the pledges that it made to the Zionist enemy in agreements or meetings, or to the most Zionist American president, Bill Clinton, to whom Yasir 'Arafat made a definitive, "unequivocal promise...to continue to do everything in his power to combat terrorism, especially Hamas." Nabil Sha'ath, on 23 January, after the Islamic Jihad's Beit Lid operation [involving suicide bomb attacks against a bus stop in Israel], disclosed [the nature of] some of these measures, when he emphasized that "this time, it will not merely be a show for just two or three days." Do our patient people, which have moved into fighting positions, need more terrorism and repressive measures from their own countrymen to serve the occupation and to implement agreements with it? The protectorate authority leadership is no doubt worlds apart from the Palestinian people, and the coming days are sure to reveal the most intricate, hidden details!

S. Asian Regional Affairs

Leading Officials Address SAARC Summit in New Delhi

India's Rao on Development

BK0205130895 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1133 GMT 2 May 95

[Address by Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao at the inaugural session of the eighth South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit at the Vigyan Bhavan Convention Center in New Delhi—live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Madam Chairperson, Your Majesty, presidents and prime ministers, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: On behalf of the people and Government of India, it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to our historic city of Delhi. We trust that your stay here will be both pleasant and rewarding. We are confident that through our purposeful discussions and deliberations over the next two days, we will successfully continue the process of strengthening regional cooperation—the true spirit of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and in the best interest of our peoples.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to Begum Khaleda Zia for the vision and dedication with which she has guided our association during the past two years. Madam Prime Minister, we greatly value your personal commitment to SAARC and we commend your efforts to promote goodwill, friendship, and understanding in our region.

It gives us special pleasure to welcome the king of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuk, and the president of the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. Your excellencies have witnessed firsthand the inception and subsequent growth of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in its first decennial. Your advice and experience would be of immeasurable value in charting the course of our movements in the years to come.

May I also take this opportunity to welcome in our midst the prime minister of Nepal, Right Honorable Mana Mohan Adhikari; the president of Pakistan, His Excellency Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari; and the president of Sri Lanka, Her Excellency Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga. We shall greatly benefit from their wisdom and experience.

I would like to take this opportunity of paying tribute to the late President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka, in whose untimely demise SAARC has lost a valued friend and guide.

Ladies and gentlemen, United Nations has designated 1995 its 50th anniversary year, the Year of Tolerance. This is an expression of the hope that as we enter the 21st century the forces of intolerance in their many manifestations will be challenged and overcome by the international community and that tolerance, goodwill, and amity will triumph. We must cherish ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity and we must ensure that the aspiration expressed through the Year of Tolerance is not belied.

The global economic environment is undergoing rapid transformation of epochal dimension, one of the features of which is globalization through regional consolidation and optimization of regional markets, skills, and resources. This enhances the voice of all constituent states, and we in our region must participate in this process. South Asia cannot afford to fall back in the momentum of change and higher aspiration which is sweeping across the world. Collective self-interest has been the fundamental basis of regional cooperation all over the world. Those regional groupings that have succeeded have opened doors to free flow of goods, services, capital, and people. This also is the route we have to adopt.

The external economic environment continues to be unfavorable for developing countries, with the burden of external debt, negative terms of trade and commodity prices, high cost and conditionalities of credit, denial of access to advanced and new technologies, impact of exchange rate fluctuations, and innovative forms of disguised and open protectionism drawing even on areas unrelated to trade. Regional economic interaction offers a different model of cooperation. Secondly, the international trading system is coalescing into powerful regional

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trading and economic coalitions involving major economies. The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and establishment of WTO [World Trade Organization] hold forth great challenges for us, but some opportunities as well. We can respond to these global factors regionally, if we make preferential trading arrangements amongst ourselves and enhance our collective strength internationally.

In our quest for this future, we can take encouragement from the perceived historical shifts that we are moving towards what is predicted will be the Asian Century. We have to ensure through our visionary actions that South Asia is part of this resurgence and does not become a backwater of the new Asia. By strength of numbers, talent, and ability, we should as we did 50 years ago at the dawn of the post colonial era: Be in the vanguard of the revival of Asia. This is the challenge of history before us which we have to address and master.

Given the unprecedented changes taking place at the global level, the imperative to bring SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement] into operation assumes greater dimension. It is heartening that we have taken the first step in this direction by signing the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement at the last summit in Dhaka. The intergovernmental group has met several times and carried forward the negotiations to finalize trade concessions. It is essential for us to provide political impetus to effectively bring SAPTA into operation by the end of this year as agreed at the Dhaka summit.

For some time now, there has been an increasing expectation that our cooperation would be of some direct relevance to the economic activity in our countries. Our objective must be to work practically toward a free market of the countries of the region and integrate our economies to enhance their range and dynamism and our collective strength in the global trading community. When we are opening up our markets to the world and inviting global competition, it stands to reason that we join forces and fortify our collective strength in support of our own business communities.

Ladies and gentlemen, poverty eradication is central to our development strategies and will be the ultimate test of our policies as far as our people are concerned. The challenge of human development for countries in our region continues to be a formidable task. High levels of poverty, lower levels of economic growth, rapidly growing population and its increasing expectations are creating serious, even alarming socioeconomic stresses and challenges in the region. It is within the experience of India and other South Asian countries that economic growth by itself has not meant much to vast sections of the population which have continued to live in hunger and ill health and without shelter, clean drinking water, and other essentials basic to a minimum level of life and human dignity.

Therefore, we in South Asia have to change the very concept of growth, and in future when we talk of growth we should mean upliftment of the people in the larger sense; that is, of the broad base of society itself and not only sectoral advances, important as these sectoral changes may be in generating wealth and opportunities. If we build more schools, more hospitals, more informal institutions of credit that serve the needs of the poor and particularly women, if we have better food distribution systems and nutrition programs that guarantee household food security and nutrition security to children, if we have production programs for gainful and resource-related employment which is labor intensive, these represent true growth of people in an integrated and organic sense, not as it may be narrowly understood in terms of statistics, indices, and macroeconomic projections. This is the message that comes across from the report of the independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation.

Ladies and gentlemen, in India our development strategies have been formulated on the premise that all economic and social policies must subserve the primacy of the human being and in particular the poorest among them. It is in keeping with this that we have, while carrying out structural reforms, simultaneously expanded outlays on antipoverty and rural development programs, education, and health so that the reform process embraces the weaker and more vulnerable segments of the society. Social safety nets have been designed to protect the interest of workers and our overall objective is to evolve a pattern of growth which is employment-oriented, which reduces the gap between urban and rural areas, which is environmentally sound and sustainable, and above all which keeps the human being as the [word indistinct] of our policies.

Ladies and gentlemen, since we last met a number of major initiatives have been taken by our countries. A ministerial meeting on women and family health was held in Kathmandu in November 1993. The ministerial declaration and the recommendations included in the Kathmandu resolution on women and family health are indeed very far- reaching, are imminently worth pursuing, and we fully endorsed them. Women are the central force around which social change takes shape and that is why through successive commitments at the highest political levels we have sought to empower the women of India. I am happy to say that India has already prepared and circulated the national plan of action for the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child 1991-2000.

Fundamental to this plan will be assurance of equality of status for the girl child through special opportunities for the growth and development to her full potential as an individual and citizen in her own right. The prevailing social and cultural discrimination against the girl child, as evidenced by the disparities in the demographic and socioeconomic indicators, is noted with deep concern. Therefore, the changing of social attitudes and behavioral practices towards the girl child is integral to and of equal importance in this plan.

We are happy to note that annual reviews of the situation of children in SAARC countries for the years 1993 and

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'94 have been completed and indicate a reduction in infant mortality and significant progress in the immunization programs for children in the region. We must continue to further intensify our efforts for ensuring the survival, protection, and development of our children, which is our investment in the future.

The SAARC ministerial conference on disabled persons was held in Islamabad in December 1993 and focussed attention on the problems of disabled persons in the region. We must do everything possible to ensure that the maximum protection is accorded to them and to mitigate the pain and loneliness they suffer. We fully endorse the recommendations of the conference and the Islamabad Resolution on disabled persons. We are also happy to note that in pursuance of the resolution, several activities and programs for the protection of disabled persons have been undertaken in the region.

The SAARC ministerial conference on youths was held in Male in May 1994 and dealt with a wide range of issues like education and vocational training for youths; health, especially AIDS and drug abuse problems; the role of young women in society, their empowerment and enhancement of their socioeconomic status; environment conservation; and the effects of rapid population growth. We fully endorse the report of the meeting and the Male Resolution on youths.

The ministerial conference of finance and planning ministers held in Dhaka has, after serious substantive deliberations, made a number of excellent recommendations on poverty eradication. We fully endorse the report of the conference. The ongoing economic reforms and structural adjustment measures in our countries and our strategies for poverty eradication are the fundamental issues of the day and we shall be happy to host the first round of meeting of the three-tier institutional mechanism recommended by the ministers.

The cancer of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking, with all its attendant problems, must be stamped out. The state bears an enormous socioeconomic cost in terms of law enforcement, rehabilitation, medical assistance, combating violence and criminality, and their disastrous effects on the people, in particular the youth of our region. It is heartening to note that the regional initiative we have taken on this issue—the SAARC Convention on Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances—has been ratified by all member states. This is undoubtedly a major achievement of SAARC, which provides us with a very effective instrument at the regional level to fight the menace of drugs. We in India are committed to implementing this convention and intensifying cooperation with countries in our region.

Over the years, despite having passed through difficult times, SAARC has evolved and grown because all of us in it believe in the need for a forum for cooperation that will strengthen self-reliance, provide mutual benefit, and create a stable environment of peace, progress, and stability in the region. Today, as we look to the future, it is time to move ahead with confidence gained from experience to sharpen our focus to consolidate our assets and use our strength to create for people a vision, a hope, and a reality at once inspiring, practical, and meaningful.

Thank you very much. [applause]

Pakistan's Leghari Views 'Challenges'

BK0205151695 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1221 GMT 2 May 95

[Address by Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari at the inaugural session of the eighth South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit at the Vigyan Bhavan Convention Center in New Delhi—live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Chairman, Your Majesty, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: May I extend to Your Excellency Prime Minister Narasimha Rao our warmest felicitations on your assumption of the chairmanship of our meeting. I am sure that your stewardship will guide our association forward on the path to regional cooperation for the common good of our people. Our outgoing chairperson, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, deserves our greatest gratitude and tribute for her skill and dedication in steering the association over the past 18 months. This productive period has seen SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] overcome several institutional hurdles in its path. Appreciation is also due to the efficient and hardworking Secretariat of the SAARC under the leadership of Secretary General Y.K. Silwal.

We are meeting at a crucial juncture. The world around is witnessing far-reaching political and economic changes. The challenges and opportunities that these developments present to the South Asian states make it imperative that bold and decisive, and if need be, difficult, decisions are taken so that this region can move forward on the path of progress and prosperity. With the end of the Cold War emerged the concept of a new world order. In our view, only that international order will be really new which does not treat weakness as crime and power as license, in which inter-state relations are governed by justice, equality, and mutual respect. A new international order which contains these elements could help build a peaceful world. It would be a great pity if our initiatives toward the new international order degenerates into a ploy to create international and regional heavyweights who arrogate to themselves the right to decide for others what essentially serves their own national interests. We firmly believe that for any new dispensation to be effective, it should be a collective endeavor and a joint mission and not one of which the big powers are the sole determinants.

Mr. Chairman, peace and security are the prerequisites of economic development in any region. South Asia is a region which has been left behind in terms of economic development because of issues which are legacies of the colonial era and were nurtured during the Cold War. The

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momentous changes that have taken place across the globe over the past few years, while raising hopes for international peace and security, have also generated concerns about the economic well-being of the developing world. The movements for self-determination, freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights have spread across the globe and can no longer be denied. Self-reliance, free enterprise, and market forces are increasingly recognized as essential for economic growth of developing countries.

With the end of the Cold War, emphasis has shifted from political and ideological rivalry to economic competition. There is no reason why our region should not benefit from the present global situation. Economic and social progress can be achieved through peace and stability. Lasting peace can be assured only if we abide by the principles of the United Nations Charter and fulfill the commitments undertaken by us bilaterally and internationally. We cannot wish our troubles away by simply turning a blind eye to our disputes. We must tackle them head-on on the basis of international law and justice and fair play. There is no reason why we should fail, given political will and a determination to succeed. Therein lies our salvation and a brighter future for our coming generations. We must not fail them.

We are about to complete the first decade of SAARC. It will be appropriate to take stock of the progress made by us and to identify our shortcomings. We must not delude ourselves into believing that all is well. The fact is that our association has not taken off, the reason is not far to seek. The suspicions and insecurity generated by the unsettled political issues in our region stand in the way of SAARC moving forward at the pace that it should. Experience of other regional groupings like the European Community and ASEAN shows that progress was possible only after the political issues had been meaningfully addressed. There is no reason why SAARC should lag behind. The member states of SAARC should be able to use the platform of this association in order to collectively help narrow the political differences between members.

I am quite aware that our charter precludes discussion of contentious political issues in our meeting. But I put it to you that progress in this world can only be achieved through innovation and through bold and decisive initiatives. The choice is up to us. Do we allow our association and our region to wallow in the mire of outmoded practices and prejudices, or do we take bold and innovative decisions to keep up with or, indeed, overtake the other regions of the world in the fields of economic and cultural advancements?

We sincerely believe that it becomes the common responsibility of all member states of SAARC to collectively work toward achieving our common objectives. We will have to pool our resources in containing the menace of religious fanaticism and intolerance, alleviating poverty, eliminating drugs, and for the maintenance of peace and security in the region. We should have no doubt that cooperation amongst the SAARC countries in the field of education, science and technology, trade, telecommunications, sports and culture, agriculture, and health is possible only if we respect the principles of sovereign equality, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and avoid using force in settling disputes.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that Pakistan supports the elimination of nuclear, and indeed, all other weapons of mass destruction from our region and from the world. We are willing to into enter into any international, regional, or bilateral commitment in this regard, provided it is equitable and does not discriminate against us. These are not empty words. We have proved our sincerity by making a number of nondiscriminatory and equitable proposals over the past several years. We are hopeful that the leadership in South Asia will have the vision to rise above local considerations and enter into a regime to banish forever the specter of nuclear weapons from this area.

Mr. Chairman, we feel that while we have made some progress in the fields of sports, art, and culture, there is less headway in areas such as agriculture, science and technology, trade, and the proposal to create a SAARC development fund. I feel that we have so far not exploited our full potential for strengthening and enlarging mutually beneficial cooperation. The achievements do not match our people's expectations. It is, therefore, time to strive to achieve our goals with greater vigor and determination. We ought to ensure that SAARC serves definite needs and its benefits are both tangible and equally distributed among member states.

The SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement, which was signed on 11 April 1993 at Dhaka, now appears to be well on its way to becoming operational. The fifth and sixth meetings of the Intergovernmental Group on Trade Liberalization in Islamabad in March 1995 and in Kathmandu in April 1995 have gone a long way in removing the various technical hurdles in its path. We hope that the rest of the formalities will be completed in time so that SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement] may be operational from the beginning of 1996.

On the key issue of financial resources and technology transfer, we still have a long way to go. We realize that resource constraints are the main hurdles in making meaningful progress possible. I am happy that the proposal of his majesty the king of Bhutan for the establishment of a South Asian development fund now appears to be materializing. We hope that the fund will finance studies for projects that are of common interest and help to generate the funding needed to bring them to fruition.

Eradication of poverty in South Asia is a laudable idea in which cooperation would be most beneficial to our people. Pakistan is firmly committed to the alleviation of poverty. A well thought out program known as the Social Action Program has already been launched in Pakistan with this objective in mind. Pakistan endorses the idea that exchange of information and sharing of experience in this area among member states will help each the

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benefit from the other's experience. We welcome the proposal to designate 1995 as the SAARC Year for Poverty Eradication.

Environmental issues are coming to the fore with every passing day. There is understandable concern that the mad rush for development and industrialization could make life on our planet difficult, if not dangerous, for the coming generations. Pakistan is fully aware of the danger to the environment that industrialization poses. In devising a considered program of action for the protection and preservation of the environment, we must carefully weigh the imperative of economic development against the needs of the environment. We are committed to support SAARC activities related to this issue.

Our region is prone to natural disasters. Earthquakes, floods, cyclones, epidemics, locust attacks have all taken their toll. When such natural disasters occur, we are caught unaware and the affected countries often find itself short of expertise and finances to face the calamity. Valuable time is lost in marshalling these resources. SAARC should provide means to evolve schemes for mutual cooperation and assistance to members in need. We must give consideration to setting up a disaster relief mechanism under the aegis of SAARC which can come into operation promptly when a member country faces a natural calamity. I am not envisaging a permanent body, just a consultative mechanism representing all SAARC states that can be called into conference by the secretary general at short notice. I should like to leave this idea for consideration by our experts.

Mr. Chairman, South Asia is a region of great promise and SAARC is a vehicle for realizing its full potential. We owe it to our peoples to take our region forward toward economic and social development. It is not the destiny of our people to remain chained to poverty and want. These shackles have to be broken. We firmly believe that our hopes for the success of SAARC in contributing to socioeconomic development and cultural renewal can best be fulfilled if we, the member states, abide by the principles of the United Nations Charter to resolve all outstanding issues. A tension-free and politically conducive environment is essential for promoting effective and harmonious regional cooperation. I would like to reiterate the firm commitment of my country to the Charter and ideals of SAARC.

Before I end, I should like to express our gratitude to our hosts for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to us and for the excellent arrangements made for our meeting.

I thank you. [applause]

Sri Lankan President on Cooperation

BK0305035295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1235 GMT 2 May 95

[Address by Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga at the inaugural session of the eighth South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit at the Vigyan Bhavan Convention Center in New Delhi—live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Chairman, Your Majesty, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: It is a great pleasure at any time to be able to visit New Delhi, but to do so twice within weeks makes it all the greater. It is heightened even further by my coming to New Delhi in order to welcome India's assumption of the chairmanship of our Association for Regional Cooperation. The warmth of New Delhi's hospitality is well known to all of us. The efficiency and professionalism of arrangements made here for conducting deliberations such as ours has long been a byword. The conferences that have been hosted here in this ancient seat of culture and civilization have brought manifold benefits not only to us in South Asia, but to many others who comprise the wider membership of such fora as the Nonaligned Movement and the Commonwealth of nations. Mr. Chairman, I congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of this eighth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. Your vast experience in regional cooperation and your wide knowledge and deep understanding of the dynamics of our region will be a great asset to us. The inaugural address made by you today not only reaffirms India's commitment to regional cooperation, but enthuses us to anticipate that SAARC will move ahead ever more decisively under your leadership. At the same time, I wish to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation of the valuable contribution made to SAARC by the outgoing chairperson, Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, prime minister of Bangladesh. Her commitment and dedication to realizing the goals of our association have earned her our great admiration and respect. SAARC owes her a deep debt of gratitude.

Mr. Chairman, we meet at a time when major global transformations are in motion. The end of the Cold War era has seen regional identities being affirmed with the security and economic well-being of our people coming increasingly to be defined in terms of their immediate political and economic environment. Our region was relatively late in entering upon structured regional cooperation. The reasons for that are well know to us all. It is for this reason that Sri Lanka has always supported regional interaction at the political level to the greatest extent possible. We believe that it is only by frequent meetings amongst ourselves, when we may confidentially and frankly address all issues, discuss our perceptions, clarify our misunderstandings, and resolve our doubts that we may realistically aspire to developing a sound foundation for meaningful, practical cooperation. To that end, we have always believed that our SAARC summit meetings should allow maximum opportunity for such confidence-building interaction leaving formal conference procedures to the minimum. This would enable us to make better use of the other mechanisms within SAARC such as the council of ministers and the secretariat and thereby render the work of SAARC more expeditious.

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In our region, where all of us are concerned with overcoming poverty, malnutrition, unemployment, and other manifestations of socioeconomic disadvantage, the only solution for salvation lies in vigorous economic activity which transcends our borders. To that end, we have embarked on developing a South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement [SAPTA]. The road ahead is a long and difficult one for, our region is characterized by disparities in size, resources, and levels of development to a greater extent, perhaps, than in any other region. Some of us may have temporarily to limit national options in order to achieve regional objectives. It is hoped that member states, which have not yet ratified SAPTA, will do so by the end of December 1995 as agreed at the Dhaka summit so that SAPTA could be operationalized by the beginning of 1996. A Preferential Trading Arrangement is, however, but one stage in the development of a free trading area in our region which should be our goal. Hence, both in order to keep that perspective clearly in view as well as to give SAPTA the necessary momentum toward effective realization, I believe we may do well to consider setting ourselves specific goals to be achieved within fixed time frames, for example, by considering the reduction of tariffs to an acceptable percentage to be effected within a specified period of time to be followed subsequently by the implementation of across-the-board tariff reduction and other related measures such as the elimination of paratariff and nontariff barriers. At the same time, it is important to note that trade is only one component, though admittedly an important one of possible regional economic cooperation. Equally important in the overall picture are other manifestations of regional economic cooperation such as the promotion of intraregional investment and the establishment of joint ventures aimed at producing goods both for the regional market as well as for export to countries outside the region. Regionalism, which has emerged reinforced with the end of the Cold War, has itself been carried further with the development of intraregional partnerships.

Linkages have been and are being sought to be forged between different geographical regions and economic groups. We in South Asia must look closely at prospects of interaction with ASEAN and APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] in the light of their contiguity to the SAARC region. At the same time, SAARC would also need to examine ways to greater cooperation with the European Community and the North Atlantic Free Trade Association.

All our countries have accepted the role of the private sector as crucial to economic development. In SAARC, we have already commenced the establishment of links between chambers of commerce, and further interaction is being explored by the industrial and business sectors of our member states. In fact, with the advancement of this process, I envisage a stage where the role of our respective governments would largely be to facilitate economic development. To this end, I propose that our summit agrees to convene a meeting of the industrial and business sectors of our respective countries with a view to discussing ways and means of forging greater economic cooperation among themselves and harnessing the economic potential of the region. Sri Lanka would be happy to host such a meeting, if the idea is found acceptable.

Of all the accepted regional divisions, the South Asian region has perhaps the largest number of the world's poor with millions of our people suffering from hunger and other forms of material deprivation. Poverty is one of the roots of conflict and destabilizes society, which erodes the creativity and capabilities of human beings. The problems of political violence and terrorism cannot be solved with only laws and regulations. The poverty and social inequality in our societies, which are the underlying causes of this phenomena, have to be eradicated, if we are to prevent political violence and terror from becoming a disease lethal to the very existence of our societies. It is said that hope betrayed transforms itself into bombs. It is in this light that my government welcomes the proposal made by the government of India to declare the year 1995 as the SAARC year of poverty eradication. The draft plan of action prepared for the purpose, which formulates strategies and activities to hasten poverty eradication process in the region, therefore, has our wholehearted support.

The twin phenomena of terrorism and drug trafficking continue to pose a grave threat to the security and stability of member states. The phenomenon of narcoterrorism is inseparably linked to organized crime, money laundering, and illicit arms trade. The SAARC convention on suppression of terrorism and on narcotic drugs represent the collective will of our countries in resolutely facing the combined challenge posed by the forces of evil. These instruments remain the fundamental legal basis for the adoption of cooperative measures to combat this grave threat confronting us. Sri Lanka was one of the first countries to adopt domestic legislation to give effect to the SAARC convention on suppression of terrorism. We are about to present in Parliament a comprehensive law dealing with drug trafficking, including money laundering, which would also give effect to the SAARC convention on narcotic drugs. Adoption of similar legislation by all our member countries is imperative to discharge our obligations which we have undertaken in these conventions. It is also our expectation that we would receive the fullest cooperation of all our member countries in making more effective the regional monitoring mechanisms in respect of drug and terrorist offenses which we have established in Sri Lanka. This would facilitate a constant dialogue and interaction among the concerned agencies in our countries in the task of combating the terrorist and drug menace in our region.

Mr. Chairman, we are approaching the 10th anniversary of our association. Customarily that would be an occasion to pledge ourselves anew to creating an even more dynamic interaction. At the time, it will also not be out of place to indulge in some backward looking introspection regarding how far we have come and whether or not

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we could have been further along our way. At the inception of this process, the planners were faced with the practical question of where to start. The question at issue was whether practical interaction in various fields automatically achieves trust and confidence amongst ourselves or whether trust and confidence is a prerequisite to generating meaningful practical cooperation.

The path on which we embarked was two-fold. One was to elevate our interaction as quickly as possible to the highest political level so that frequent and regular meetings of leaders would help develop mutual trust and confidence, which, in turn, would create an atmosphere of harmony conducive to tangible cooperation. The other was to embark upon such practical interaction as seemed feasible at any given time. Hoping that the accumulation and combined weight of such interaction would itself engender trust and confidence, it is my firm conviction, Mr. Chairman, that we should go forward pursuing both courses. To that end, I pledge you my fullest support and that of our people. Thank you. [applause]

Leaders Hold Sideline Meetings at SAARC Summit

Rao Meets Leghari

BK0205160995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Eighth SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] Summit opened in New Delhi today with the leaders expressing the resolve to make SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement] operational by the end of the year. Setting the tone of the summit of leaders of seven nations, the prime minister said unprecedented changes are taking place in the global economic scenario and South Asia cannot afford to fall back. [passage omitted] The summit later adopted reports of the Council of Ministers of their last sessions. Tomorrow, the SAARC leaders, except the Sri Lankan president, will go for a retreat to Simla. Mrs. Kumaratunga is returning home in the morning due to compulsions at home.

The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, is hosting a banquet in honor of the visiting dignitaries this evening.

The foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider, earlier told newspersons that the next summit will be held in the Maldives.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and Pakistan President Mr. Farooq Leghari had a 45-minute meeting in New Delhi this evening. Later talking to newsmen, Mr. Rao said India is open for dialogue with Pakistan. He said there are no insurmountable barriers in resuming the dialogue. The prime minister also had a series of bilateral meetings with the leaders of Sri Lanka, Nepal, and the Maldives.

Leghari Meets Sri Lankan President

BK0205153895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in New Delhi today. The Sri Lankan president apprised President Leghari of the situation concerning recent activities by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which heightened tension in her country. President Leghari expressed regret over the activities and appreciated the Sri Lankan Government's effort to establish peace in the region. The Sri Lankan president invited President Leghari to visit Sri Lanka. She also expressed the hope that Prime Minister Bhutto will soon visit Sri Lanka. The foreign ministers of Pakistan and Sri Lanka were also present during the meeting.

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Algeria

Sifi Views Violence, Election, Other Issues

NC0205184495 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi by Ibrahim Nafi' in Algiers; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nafi'] Mr. Prime Minister: How do you describe the security situation in Algeria today? Is it better now or is it still the same as in the past few years?

[Sifi] We cannot talk about the security aspect alone, because the crisis in Algeria involves other than just security matters. We are handling this crisis in several ways, including political ones. The most important aspect of this crisis, we believe, is the political aspect. The crisis is multifaceted: It is political and somewhat economic. Therefore, I have reservations about referring to the security aspect alone. However, the security aspect is considered because it means respect for law and for the Constitution, and this is the duty of everyone.

The security situation has improved, and there is evidence that the situation is far better now than before. The Algerian people saw economic achievement. The improvement in the security situation is not only the result of the activity of the security officials, but it is due to the position and awareness of the Algerian people. The people, very honestly, are participating in the war, I mean, in the struggle against terrorism. We have also noticed that some young terrorists have left terrorism and have played a role against it.

All security, economic, and political indications point to an improvement. You can ask Algerian citizens, especially those inside the country. They will say that there is much less pressure on them now than there was before. We still hope for improved security and better economic conditions, but there is improvement in many areas.

In the area of housing, for instance, citizens were offered 40,000 housing units in 1993; the figure rose to 100,000 units in 1994, and it is expected to reach 160,000 in 1995.

This indicates that the basic interests of citizens are improving, although the pressure on the country's security system negatively affects economics. However, the situation is normal concerning consumer products. Four million workers go to work normally, students go regularly to schools and universities, and various trade and economic establishments do business normally.

Despite all this improvement, we believe that it is unacceptable for a single citizen to die in the darkness of terrorism.

The political situation has also improved. We are entering the election season and we hope that we will come out of it peacefully and with a solution to the Algerian crisis. The first phase of elections (the presidential election) is the full solution to Algeria's crisis.

[Nafi'] You chose political dialogue as the main method for confronting the crisis. Do you think the dialogue will continue and will not become deadlocked?

[Sifi] Dialogue is possible and we stress this on every occasion. Dialogue is the main thing. We must begin with all Algerian political forces, including parties, and then the various groups of the civil society. The dialogue must be launched in all parts of the country; that is, all the Algerian people, with all their parties, groups, and formations must participate in the dialogue. Although there are 63 parties, they do not represent all the Algerian people.

So, all forces are needed for the dialogue, and the door is open to all to engage in the dialogue. The door to dialogue will always remain open, even after the presidential elections, which are the first phase of the political steps we are taking to end the crisis. We insist that the dialogue continue permanently, and we wait for initiatives from the parties and the organizations. Dialogue is an irrevocable option, and this position will not change.

[Nafi'] The opposition forces in Algeria believe that there should be a consensus of opinion before elections are held. Will elections take place even if some kind of consensus is not established? Or will you be satisfied with a basic minimum agreement over the conditions and climate for holding elections?

[Sifi] There could be agreement in this realm because dialogue means that we accept a "national basis" (national agreement) which we all resort to and stop at. Such a "national reference" could become the principle for dialogue and the objective behind it would be to respect the law and the principle of a democratic rotation of authority. This is a principle that is based on free elections in the sense that we have to go back to the people. And going back to the people is more important than anything else, more important than going back to the authority and the parties. Respect from the people leads to forming the authority. Also, dialogue is considered necessary because it signifies understanding. We still have a long way to go before dialogue realizes its objective. Nevertheless, we still have to have a deadline at which the dialogue, which we started at the beginning of 1994, ends. There also has to be an outcome. That is why the presidential elections were decided upon and will take place this year. We have before us a great deal of time for more dialogue about the elections and their proceedings and about all the other issues related to elections.

[Nafi'] However, in the opinion of your opposition, the important thing is to agree on the basic issues which are related to the real situation, not only the presidency. The opposition forces, despite all the differences among them, agree that current President Liamine Zeroual has full legitimacy, which enables him to exercise his authority in full, as stipulated by the Constitution.

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Therefore, electing the president is not the major objective. The major objective is to agree over the basic national issues that precede these elections.

[Sifi] I believe that agreement is not the objective. Agreement is the means that give the people the necessary possibilities, structure, and atmosphere in which the national bases are agreed on. In the field of national accord, dialogue and agreement are the means to get out of the crisis.

In actual fact, there are some parties that believe that now is not the time for elections. But is this in the interest of the country? One can, at the same time, see that there are many parties that came close to reaching an understanding that tends toward holding elections. They do not reject elections. These include some of the big parties. This tendency is useful to them because their representation will be decided by the elections. Developments have made them consider participating in elections.

However, the truth is that there are also other issues before these parties, such as their demands for guarantees controlling elections and making them free and transparent, so that the Algerian people can say what they want through them. There are parties that proposed to the head of state files pertaining to elections and other issues. The head of state is very open-minded and has stated many times that the opportunity is there to present ideas and initiatives within the framework of this dialogue. Here, I would like to clarify some things to the foreign public, part of which thinks that the Algerian authorities reject dialogue. I would also like to clarify that the opposite is true, since the authorities in Algeria accept dialogue with all parties. The most important party in the dialogue is the Algerian people. And the most important thing we can emerge with from this whole process is the participation of the Algerian people in the political process in their country, as was stated by the head of state and as he is determined to do. In my opinion, this objective is the most important objective, nay, the only objective that will help Algeria, when it is realized, emerge from its crisis and security problem.

[Nafi'] As regards the dialogue the president held, there are remarks from many parties regarding the election law which is being prepared now. What, in your opinion, are the most important remarks presented by these parties? Will a conference for dialogue be held to include all these parties, including the banned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]?

[Sifi] The elections law you are talking about pertains to the popular national council (parliament). Perhaps the current law is not appropriate for the new Algerian situation. However, in the framework of the need for dialogue and participation, all parties spoke about the inappropriateness of the election law for the members of parliament. Now, we are not amending everything in the law; we are amending only those paragraphs pertaining to the presidential elections. In fact, all reactions go along with this amendment. There are some details and suggestions that we have taken into consideration. There was the suggestion that the parties should express their reactions in writing because then, the documents these parties submit will be clear and precise when examined.

After receiving these documents, there were and still are some direct contacts with the parties during which these issues are discussed to find the appropriate formula that takes into consideration all the proposals the various sides submit.

As regards the parties' participation in these elections, we would like to reiterate that the presidential elections are not only confined to parties. Every citizen, regardless of his or her party affiliation, including the Salvation Front, has the right to nominate himself. However, there is a legal condition, that this citizen must not have been prosecuted or indicted. Most importantly, this citizen must enjoy his entire civil rights regardless of his party affiliation.

The second important point that concerns the presidential elections is that these elections are more important and easier than any other elections. Our Constitution makes the head of state a guarantor of the Constitution. Hence, we must first begin with the head of state because the president of the Republic is the protector of the Constitution.

The third point is that the other legislative and municipal elections dictate that the country be divided into constituencies. This is a national duty requiring great efforts. It enables us to make things easier and give precedence to the presidential elections and give more legitimacy to the president.

[Nafi'] Are there external parties that are helping to escalate the violence in Algeria? And are these parties, if they do exist, seeking to sabotage the situation only in Algeria, or in other countries as well?

[Sifi] There are such parties. But we are not talking about them. This, however, does not mean that we lack evidence. We have the evidence. The best evidence we have is that the representatives of the criminal terrorist groups are enjoying freedom of movement in some countries. They are visiting those countries. Those representatives are supplying the terrorists with money and weapons. They are indeed giving everything to the terrorists.

In my opinion, these parties are not working only against Algeria. These parties follow a strategy when they carry out operations in Algeria, because this country carries weight in the Arab Maghreb. How would an Arab Maghreb ever exist without Algeria? And without a stable Algeria there will be no peace or balance in the Mediterranean region or in the Arab Maghreb. Furthermore, Algeria is an indivisible part of the Arab homeland, and when one part is affected, be it positively or negatively, the whole is affected.

From this perspective, all the Arab and Islamic countries, the Arab Maghreb countries, and the Mediterranean basin will be affected by events in Algeria. It is like

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the domino theory, where if one country collapses the others will follow. In my opinion, this will necessarily make the other nations become concerned about the situation in Algeria. This is not just philosophy because we have experienced the same thing in Algeria. At the beginning of the crisis many parties in the country said they were not concerned with the events. Even the citizens considered themselves not concerned with the issue. I do not mean here to put the blame on the citizens. But we passed through a stage where the state was not desirable, and the citizens used to say that he was not concerned. But gradually some Algerians started to show concern for the issue.

This experience in Algeria must have its effects on the Arab world and the Islamic world and must be applied in these countries. There is now broad awareness in the Arab countries and there is a degree of influence in some neighboring countries. Nevertheless, there are still people who continue to be confused.

[Nafi'] When will you finish preparing the new elections law?

[Sifi] We have started to speed up the measures and there are contacts. I have spoken about the reactions and contacts with the parties, groups, and societies. There might be contacts with others besides the current direct ones in order to have an overall concept of the draft law that will be achieved. Once we reach this goal, we will submit it to the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] (the provisional parliament). I cannot give the exact time when we will submit this draft law but it will be as soon as possible. I am taking into consideration here the time needed for discussions with the other parties and various groups and with the TNA.

Generally speaking, we still have time, that is, until the end of the year. We are as much determined to hold the elections before the end of the year as we are determined to proceed with the economic reform program and to join the market economy. We are determined to do this and there will be no going back on it.

[Nafi'] There are clear indications of an attempt to internationalize the Algerian crisis. One of these indications is the meeting held in Rome by the Algerian opposition forces which came out with what they called the "Rome Document." What is your view of this move? What are your most notable reservations about it?

[Sifi] My view is no better than that of the Algerian citizen. The citizens came out into the streets and rejected this proposal because it originated abroad. My view is no better than this. All the Algerian people's reaction was to reject anything coming from abroad because it means interference in their country's domestic affairs.

But we welcome all the proposals coming from inside the country, from the Algerian parties and groups themselves, regardless of whether they are moderate or twisted. We welcome these proposals from any party, regardless of whether this party has representation in the political arena or not. We, as Algerians, are discussing everything and anything so as to come out with results acceptable to all the parties, that is, to the entire Algerian people. Algeria's authority regards itself as a party and does not impose its view on everybody or on any party. It is extending its hand to all the parties and sides and taking part in the studies with all the parties, regardless of what they are.

[Nafi'] What are your reservations about the so-called "Rome Document"?

[Sifi] The most important reservation is that it came from abroad. Other than that, we have no reservations. We take into consideration any proposals from any Algerian party or side, regardless of what it is. We are all Algerians and everyone is working for Algeria's sake and security even if one's perspective differs from that of others.

[Nafi'] Some press reports spoke about decisive confrontations between the Algerian security forces and the armed terrorist groups. These reports spoke about victims numbering between 1,800 and 2,800 killed in the recent confrontation in the 'Ain Defla region. Can you shed some light on these operations about which no official communique was issued?

[Sifi] This concerns the security organs. They are the ones that take the measures to fight terrorism and choose whether to make them public or not in accordance with the strategy that they believe is suitable for freedom of action in the confrontation. This is not the case only in Algeria but in many countries which take the security interests into consideration and not the press requirements. Thus, to publicize some things might affect security interests and the tasks undertaken.

[Nafi'] I have heard that civilians have been organized as civil defense or self-defense groups to confront armed men. Do you not think that the activities of these groups, which are called "mujahidin," against those of the armed groups may lead to a civil war in the future?

[Sifi] No. In fact, there are no organized groups. In every country, some citizens have permission to carry arms; you find this in any country.

In the beginning, security services asked all citizens who possessed arms to report them. A number of citizens requested that they keep their arms to defend themselves and their property in accordance with the law. Citizens in some villages organized themselves against the terrorists, and the state allowed them to do so. But there are no organized structures, including the so-called "mujahidin." Now, the situation is such that any citizen possessing arms can keep them. Any citizen in any country can keep a licensed weapon; this is the case in Egypt, France, Britain, the United States, and so on. But there is nothing outside the law. Weapons are subject to the municipality guards law, an old law that is now valid.

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Police can arm such guards to help the police in their activity. These guards have an important weight now, and that helped the security situation improve a great deal.

[Nafi'] I would like to return to the question of foreign intervention to resolve the crisis. You are rejecting any foreign interference in Algeria's internal affairs, and this is your right. But does Algeria object to the intervention of, for example, the Arab League or Morocco, which refused to host the conference of the Algerian opposition forces? Does Algeria accept any Arab intervention?

[Sifi] This question can be addressed to the officials in any Arab country. This is not a purely Algerian concern: Any Arab or non-Arab country rejects any foreign interference against its will, and this applies to Arab interference in the affairs of another Arab country. This is rejected by the Algerian authority, indeed by the Algerian people, and the authority in Algeria cannot take a position against the Algerian people's will.

[Nafi'] We do not disagree with this Algerian position, but we mean that Algeria may accept some help from fraternal and friendly countries to resolve the crisis.

[Sifi] Algeria does not allow itself to interfere in the affairs of any Arab, Islamic, or non-Arab country. We do not interfere unless asked to by the country concerned. Algeria may ask for assistance in monitoring the clarity [shafafiyat] of elections, but only at Algeria's will. This is the will of the people, and we, as an authority, cannot depart from the position of the people. Moreover, the authority is composed of Algerian individuals. I am the head of the government, but I have a position as a citizen, and I do not depart from it.

[Nafi'] But undoubtedly, other countries, even non-Arab countries such as the United States and France, have their own views regarding a solution to the Algerian crisis.

[Sifi] They are entitled to their views. Algeria always has its own views regarding solutions to problems in other countries but it keeps its views to itself because our country has its own problems. Our concern with certain situations in other countries proceeds from our interest in those countries. Likewise, the concern of other countries over the situation in Algeria is based on the fact that they are our partners to various interests. It is the right of these countries, such as Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, France, and the United States, to be concerned with the situation in Algeria as long as they are our partners. Algeria is also part of the world and of the international institutions and structures. Therefore, anything that happens in Algeria concerns the other countries and makes them hope Algeria will come out of its crisis, because it affects them.

[Nafi'] What is Algeria's viewpoint on Egypt's joining the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] as an observer?

[Sifi] Algeria is a member of the UMA. When it presents its opinion it does so in its capacity as a member of the Union. In my capacity as prime minister of Algeria, I say welcome to Egypt. However, the decision on this matter is up to the UMA summit. In this regard, the principle of group agreement among the member countries will apply.

[Nafi'] What are the latest conditions set by the IMF regarding Algeria? What are the results of the latest round of negotiations between the two sides?

[Sifi] Actually, there are no conditions. There is an Algerian program which makes our partner, the IMF, feel that the way we are working in or attempting to improve the economy is of the level required to pay back Algeria's debts. The method we have chosen is to apply a market economy, which is a difficult method because it means changing from one type of economy to another. Any change is difficult, even if it comes naturally.

The situation depends on our having the possibilities and necessary potential to cover our debts and the appropriate economic and financial balance. In addition, the reform program should move forward and should result in economic revival and quite a sizable return in order to improve Algeria's economy. We are proceeding with these programs, and the results, thank God, are good despite the fact that they require some sacrifices. These results are very sound and we hope for other results in the future.

However, there are no conditions imposed. We imposed these conditions on ourselves, and this is normal. In every individual's life, certain problems sometimes require that he impose a certain program on himself—a program that contains some kind of admission of facts to reach a certain result.

[Nafi'] Are there any official estimates on the losses resulting from the terrorist activities?

[Sifi] We do have an estimate, but it is not really accurate. When we estimate losses, we do not take everything into consideration. In other words, do we include the value of a school or a building at the price this building cost or the price it is worth now? The interior minister recently spoke about an estimate of the losses at 80 billion dinars, or what is a bit more than $2 billion.

[Nafi'] How did this loss affect the morale of the Algerian people?

[Sifi] It had a negative financial effect, but this is nothing compared to the loss of life among the citizens who fall victim to violence. I do not care how much money I lose when people are dying in the street. What concerns me is Algeria's future and destiny and the life of its citizens.

[Nafi'] Is it really true that 30,000 people have been killed in the past three years?

[Sifi] That is too many; not that many.

[Nafi'] These figures are reported by semi-international establishments in the West.

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[Sifi] In the West? These are estimates of some Algerian parties or their officials, and so on.

[Nafi'] But as a prime minister, what do you say about this figure?

[Sifi] I may call attention to the statement we issued in 1994. That was a difficult year (6,000 or more people were killed). This estimate may give accurate figures. (An official statement issued a few days ago said that 15,000 people have been killed since violence erupted in Algeria.)

[Nafi'] Thank you.

[Sifi] Thank you.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Land Confiscation

LD0205205095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria has condemned the Israeli decision to confiscate Palestinian land in East Jerusalem, and renewed its solidarity with the Palestinian people in their effort to protect their legitimate national rights and establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

In a statement issued today, a Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that Israel's decision to confiscate Palestinian land confirms Israel's settlement goals and its refusal of a comprehensive and just peace in the region as stipulated by international conventions, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the agreements concluded in this respect.

Security Services 'Eliminate' 22 'Terrorists'

LD0205194995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services said today that their forces have been able to eliminate 22 terrorists, including members of two dangerous gangs which were active in Bou Saada and Douera. The manhunt operations were carried out by the security forces in Bou Saada, Douera, Boumerdes, Batna, Guelma, Annaba, the capital Algiers, and Blida.

Egypt

Musa Returns From Syria With Message For Mubarak

NC0205182095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Damascus this evening after a working visit of several hours during which he delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Musa also held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on Arab developments and the extraordinary meeting which the Arab League Council will hold 6 May to discuss Israel's settlement activity in Jerusalem. Musa and his Syrian counterpart also discussed the developments of the Middle East peace process and the obstacles in the way of the Syrian- Israeli negotiations.

The foreign minister said that the Syrian president conveyed, through him, a reply message to President Husni Mubarak. The message, he said, is part of the Egyptian-Syrian consultations on the Arab situation and the peace process, and it deals with Arab and international issues of concern to both countries. He said his visit to Damascus is part of an effort to intensify Egyptian-Syrian, and generally Egyptian-Arab, coordination over the peace process and issues of concern to the Arab nation. He said the obstacles facing the peace process necessitate Egyptian-Syrian consultations as part of Arab coordination and solidarity.

Musa will report to President Husni Mubarak on his meeting with President al-Asad and his talks with Faruq al-Shar'.

Oklahoma Response Showed U.S. 'Hostility To Islam'

MM0205115295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 May 95 p 6

[Report by Muhammad Salah: "Egyptian Jihad Describes Americans as 'Murderers and Cowboys'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—The "Jihad Group" led by Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, who currently lives in Switzerland, has vehemently criticized the United States, describing the Americans as "a group of murderers, bloodletters, and cowboys."

AL-HAYAH has received a bulletin entitled AL-MUJAHIDUN, which says that it is published by the "Jihad Group" in Switzerland. It contains a statement saying that "the horrific explosion that occurred in Oklahoma on 18 April warrants a pause for examination. The unwary must realize that, a few hours after the explosion, a ruthless campaign of hostility was launched against Muslims in most parts of the United States in a manner that reflected the cowboy character and deep-seated hostility toward Islam and Muslims. As a result, a pregnant Muslim Iraqi woman aborted after unidentified assailants attacked her home and stoned her and her children, according to a Muslim from the al-Nur Mosque in Oklahoma."

The statement added: "This incident shows that the Zionist media control the United States, that they have long pursued a ruthless campaign against Muslims and the Islamic religion, and that the U.S. people are no different from their government. They are groups of murderers, bloodletters, and cowboys. And hostility to Islam and Muslims is deep-seated in Americans' blood."

It went on: "It has been proved that those who carried out the operation belong to the extremist Christian

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Michigan Militia. And that the number of dead is 20 times those killed in the New York Trade Center explosion, of which they accused Muslims. Nevertheless, we have heard no attacks or seen any large-scale campaign against Christianity and Christians like the one they launched against Islam and Muslims, as a result of which Zionist news agencies rushed to say that Middle Eastern-looking persons were behind the explosion, hence hinting that they were Muslims, especially as Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and others are standing trial on charges of bombing the Trade Center in New York."

The bulletin also contained an article by Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri in which he vehemently attacked Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, describing him as a "secular struggler." He also criticized the trials conducted by the " 'Arafatist authorities of the young men of Islam in Gaza under the title of "state security courts." He said that "secular strugglers have become the Israel's toughest defenders against the Islamic movement."

Effects of Oklahoma Blast on U.S. Viewed

NC0105121595 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 22 Apr 95 pp 1, 9

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah: "We Are All Now in the Same Boat!"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mystery still surrounds the horrible incident which took place in Oklahoma City in the United States and those who planned and perpetrated it. It is certain that identifying those human beasts will take a long time. U.S. authorities are said to be checking, examining, and verifying thousands of reports, files, and tips—old and new—with the hope of finding a lead to enable them to identify those who blew up a nine-story building in Oklahoma City, killing or wounding 472 people, in addition to 300 people who are still missing under the debris.

If this devastating blast is to be considered "the most violent terrorist operation in 75 years," as noted in U.S. reports, then it is considered ordinary and repetitive by people in the other five continents. The only difference is that these terrorist incidents have so far taken place in small states and among poor nations in the "Third" World, receiving little attention from the states of the richer and more stable and secure "First" World.

The Oklahoma blast has blown up the rule that the "First" World was previously convinced of. Terrorism is no longer confined to small states and backward peoples. The killing of innocent children, women, and old people in Third World countries is no longer merely "regrettable." These are incidents that the major states let pass. The major powers can no longer ask the stricken peoples and governments to practice "self-restraint" and enter into dialogue with terrorist groups in search of compromise. The superpowers, above all the United States, can no longer be harsh on the terrorism-stricken governments, accusing them of not respecting "human rights" in their actions to eradicate terrorism and hunt down terrorists. [passage omitted]

Qatar Agrees To Transport Gas Through Suez Canal

NC2904151795 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Sabir 'Abd-al-Wahhab from Ismailia]

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Muhammad 'Izzat 'Adil, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, has announced that the Authority has signed an agreement with the Government of Qatar to transport natural gas from the Qatari fields to Europe via the Suez Canal for the next 25 years. Qatar will get a discount of between 30 to 35 percent of the transit fees.

Engineer 'Adil, speaking upon his return from a tour of Qatar and Jordan, added that the agreement, which he had signed with Qatari Energy and Industry Minister 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Atiyah, stipulates that a minimum of 2 million tons of natural gas per year will pass through the Suez Canal.

Necessity of Nilesat Satellite Viewed

95LD0044A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 17 Feb 95 pp 60-61

[Article by Engineer Sa'd Sha'ban: "Egyptian Satellite... Why Is It Necessary?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shortly before the first man went to the moon in July 1969, the Reverend [Ralph] Abernathy, leader of American blacks, led a silent demonstration around the Cape Kennedy base, carrying signs criticizing the invasion of space. Some examples were: "Wouldn't we be better off exploring unknown areas on earth?" "Why risk these huge costs and many dangers for no specific purpose?"

Earth satellites have begun to play a prodigious role in many different fields and, most important, the world of communications. Because of them, a revolution has occurred in radio broadcasting, television transmissions, and telephonic communications, increasing their range to an amazing extent. Communications satellites are launched by means of rockets that propel them to a height of 34,000 km over the equator. At this altitude, it becomes fixed or suspended in a fixed position relative to us, because its speed is equal to the speed of the earth's rotation. One communications satellite can cover one-third of the surface of the globe and replaces hundreds of earth television stations, hundreds of centrals, and thousands of kilometers of telephone cables, which had to be buried underground or isolated under water. All of that took many years, and the costs were more than the cost of only one earth satellite.

The peoples of the Western world became convinced of the amazing accomplishments of communications satellites in 1964, when the American satellite "Syncom-3" was suspended over the ocean. Its purpose was to relay the events of the Olympics, which, at that time, were

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held in Tokyo. Until that time, available systems had only been able to transmit details of the games to television screens a day or more later, after the films were sent by aircraft. However, Syncom-3 allowed many cities in Western Europe and all of America to enjoy seeing the games as they were being played.

When Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif announced at the end of 1993 that an Egyptian communications satellite (Nilesat) would soon be launched, Israel immediately rushed to declare its intention to launch a similar satellite (Amos) in November 1995, despite the fact that its project has been postponed since 1982! However, it also raised questions and derision with regard to Egypt about this satellite's feasibility for a poor country, burdened with debts, which must import more than 70 percent of its food.

The fact is that we must take a reasonable position, devoid of sentimentality, so that we may analyze the matter in light of what the specialists know, and in light of statistics and economic studies, so that the matter is not words without proof and talk without restraint as was the case with regard to American blacks. We have the following facts:

- Egypt is not a poor country. A look at the prime minister's statement, which he recently made to the People's Assembly, makes it clear that the cash liquidity available in the banks exceeds 41 billion Egyptian pounds [LE]. Is this poverty, a refusal to exploit this liquidity, or having difficulties in investment to serve production?

The uppermost thought in the president's mind is to lift restrictions and governmental complexities from investment projects. He began this by liberating these projects, to a capital of LE10 million and then to LE50 million.

Look at Third World countries that are burdened by far more onerous circumstances than we are. We find that India has launched four satellites, as have many Latin American countries.

It has become the mind-set that "earth satellites" are a means of providing amusement, especially if they are used for information, because the prevailing delusion is that they will only be concerned with propaganda, lies, and blowing the government's horn. There is also the idea that they are a means of entertainment, enjoyment, laughter, dancing, and singing. This is an unfair and limited view, because the wealth of television broadcasting through an earth satellite is the best way to treat many of society's issues and problems, such as the issue of terrorism, population issues, the spread of drugs, traffic problems, transmitting specialized lessons, and wiping out illiteracy.

One channel on an earth satellite allocated for educational programs throughout the day can contain many specialized lessons from which we can select. The illiteracy that half our people suffer from can be eliminated. Is it possible to imagine a faster, more efficient means to educate the illiterates, far from the traditional methods of school buildings, classrooms, and blackboards? One gathering of fellahin around a tree in the village square, or troops in a tent in a military camp, can have their minds illuminated by the lamp of knowledge from educational programs contained on a satellite.

If we add to that another channel for culture, in which the wealth of mature intellects come together in a purposeful program, we will find that we have an "open university", whose data promotes thinking, perceptions, and sensitivity. In this informational philosophy, there will be specialized channels on the earth satellite, one for education, another for culture, and a third for youth, or music, women's affairs, or sports.

If we were to look at a map of our republic, we would find that it has population groupings on the north shore, along the Red Sea coast, in the Sinai, in oases, and in the far south of Upper Egypt. These represent pockets in terms of television coverage. Citizens live in them as if they were in another country! The daily press only reaches them the following day or the day after that. They are only connected to the capital by radio. Regional television channels have increased during recent years, but they are still repeats of Cairo programs and their range is limited. But, if an earth satellite was used, all of these programs would be standardized, and the television broadcast would directly cover every inch of Egypt.

We live in a rapid information age. Communications in civilized societies are like a healthy network of nerves in the human body; without them, there can be no movement, thought, or production. Let us remember the farce that we witnessed in the first days of the catastrophic floods, with the contradictory statements and numbers concerning the size of the catastrophe and its effects. The data's rapid flow would have been guaranteed by communications satellites and photo satellites.

We and our neighboring cousins are living in a state of unrest. While outwardly it is a peaceful and natural state, inwardly it is threatening and subjugated. In fact, the matter is a race toward goals. They have set their goals and made plans to attain them year after year. As for us, we have lost our way. Why shouldn't we challenge in outer space, to enlighten the Arab people as to the facts of the matter, instead of burying our heads in the sand? This is Egypt's leadership role and destiny.

The fact is that the "Arab Organization for Space Communications" is ready to launch the second generation of Arab satellites, which will operate a system of direct transmission. It is amazing what it costs the organization to lease one channel on a satellite. It must pay the five-year subscription in advance, despite the fact that the annual subscription is $4 million. This means that the Egyptian space program, in order for it to continue, costs Egypt, approximately $15 million for only one channel! Unfortunately, the third Arab satellite (Arabsat-3) on which the Egyptian channel is leased, is on the

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verge of having its supposed life end. The fourth satellite has begun to oscillate in its orbit and was recently provisionally replaced by another.

The step by which Safwat al-Sharif leased the group channel or "united channel" on the Arab satellite, after it had remained inactive for more than five years, is considered a courageous step, because it saved the Arabs from a shameful blow to Arab capabilities since, if it had not been for that, it would have been changed into a channel for advertisements. This channel has connected Egypt with its citizens working abroad. Its transmissions extended to the Arab countries and, through modern technological means, reached many European and African countries. It, therefore, became the first of the steps to confront the intellectual and cultural invasion against the Arab world, begun by the spread of direct broadcast satellites by means of the dish.

The debate continues about what might befall the youth of the Arab world because of matters that conflict with our values and traditions, especially since certain governors have decided to ban the dish from public places.

While 1995 will see all earth communications satellites change over to a system of direct broadcast, with which all political and geographic limits and governmental restrictions will be dropped, space will become an open area to be used by the dish owner as he chooses. Programs with nudity and sexual permissiveness will be available. This will complement the vicious drug attacks and terrorism. It is clear where these assaults come from, and who encourages and finances them. Because it is logical to say that the only way to banish destructive thought is by the use of healthy thought, the theory of "filling the informational void" came along, hoping to put an end to this organized onslaught from abroad.

This theory is being implemented by establishing local channels in Ismailia, Alexandria, the middle delta, and al-Minya, with extended broadcasting for the first two channels for a few hours after midnight. However, undoubtedly they will be capped by the launch of the Egyptian satellite.

Accordingly, it should be clear in all minds that the idea of launching the Egyptian satellite is not a sudden whim, but implements a media strategy and is its first objective, in order to stop the frivolity coming to us from space. It is a reaction to the savage, multifaceted media invasion.

Egyptian Satellite Is Necessary

The Egyptian satellite has taken its first legal step with a review of its project by the Information and Culture Committee of the People's Assembly on 16 January 1995. This followed the completion of the technical and economic study in the Radio and Television Federation and the Secretaries Council. The project is based on the premise that a well-versed company will manage it as an investment, with the capital being returned in four years. This rapid turnaround is not hypothetical, but rather it is the result of a study in which a Canadian expertise firm participated, which is well known for its competence. The Egyptian satellite will be designed to contain 12 "responders", i.e., a retransmission channel. It will use a technical system, known in engineering as "numeric compression," which multiplies the channels four times, making available 48 programs simultaneously.

The satellite is also designed to last for 12 years. Leasing a large number of these channels that are in excess of the national requirement will achieve a compensatory profit. Offers are being made to finance the satellite through Egyptian banks and companies and certain businessmen. In accordance with modern standards, the dishes working with the satellite in Egypt will have a diameter of 45 centimeters, i.e., it can be placed on top of the house, on balconies, or in gardens. Its broadcasts will cover all the Arab countries from the Gulf to the Atlantic. The satellite's main transmission station will be built in the media production city of Sixth of October, and the main control station will be in Cairo, with the backup in Alexandria.

It has been decided to open the project to limited international bidding in March 1995, in which four international companies will take part. Two are European, and the other two American. It is expected that the period of implementation will take about two years.

A Race With Time

Behind the huge national project are efforts that have continued for several years, until it has been transformed from a hope to a reality. Were it not for Safwat al-Sharif's zeal to modernize the Egyptian media, it would not have come into existence. Behind these efforts as well were the leading lights of the Radio and Television Federation, who have worked tirelessly; the blessed ulema, led by Amin Basyuni, and the crew of engineers of whom Egypt has a right to be proud. These engineers are Mahmud Kashak, Dr. Hamdi 'Abd-al-Halim, Ibrahim 'Atiyyah, Mahmud Khattab, 'Abd- al-Salam Khalil, Ghizah Turk, and Mukhtar Ghanim. When the satellite is put in its fixed orbit at the beginning of 1997, those who understand these matters will know that we were in a race with time, because this satellite's position is at longitude 7 West, reserved for Egypt by the International Space Communications Organization since 1977. If the use of this spot is delayed for 20 years, i.e., in 1997, it would automatically become vacant. Therefore, we pray to God that the project is realized on the appropriate date.

Newspaper Views Muslim Brotherhood Funding

95LD0046A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
3 Mar 95 pp 16-17

[Article by Majdi al-Daqqaq: "In Figures: Loose Money in the Brotherhood's Unions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The decision to impose judicial surveillance over the funds of the Engineers' Union came

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as no surprise to the union's 220,000 members. Among the 22 professional unions, only in the engineers', physicians', pharmacists', and lawyers' unions do elements of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood control the boards and funds. While the service role of these four unions to all members has diminished, Muslim Brothers have thrown these unions into the heat of partisan activity and funneled their funds to serve a particular political current. Gifts and donations, not to mention services, have been concentrated on their supporters, rather than all members.

While anti-Brotherhood forces have been able to drag these unions to the prosecutors and courts so as to impose judicial surveillance on the engineers and soon on the lawyers, to be followed by the physicians and pharmacists, the problem now is the diminished service role of the four unions and the use of their funds to prop up the control that these elements exercise over these unions, gathering supporters and mobilizing ranks only to perpetuate their control, rather than to provide a single noteworthy service.

The recent ruling imposing judicial surveillance over the Engineers' Union came as confirmation of the charges that some union members had brought against Muslim Brotherhood elements controlling the union's board: charges of misusing engineers' funds and wasting the revenues of Egypt's wealthiest professional union—this according to Engineer Raja'i 'Abd-al-Malik, who declared that the union's revenues amounted to about 60 million pounds a year.

The Engineers' Union has 220,000 members. Each member pays between 12 and 18 pounds a year according to his seniority on the role.

Engineers Jamal 'Allam and Muhsin Tawfiq say that Central Accounting Agency reports have demonstrated shocking facts about the condition into which their union has fallen. They describe it as having become a farce. They state that financial transactions in the union have come to be characterized by neglect of the rules of sound spending, disregard for records, widespread use of cash disbursements instead of checks, not reviewing accounts before and after expenditures, and occasionally the drawing of checks by unauthorized persons.

According to the budget published in the engineers' magazine, about 1 million pounds a year have been spent on education incentives. It is not known to whom they were disbursed. This has recurred in more than one year.

A group known as the Patriotic Engineers (a grouping of engineers opposed to Muslim Brotherhood control of the union) has issued a statement that in recent years the union's board has funneled about 22 million pounds from the pension fund to investments in the capital of certain private companies and banks. These firms suffered repeated losses, causing waste of the fund's money and loss of investment returns.

The statement says that, despite the objection of the Central Accounting Agency to using pension fund money in investment areas without insured returns, in 1992 shares totaling half a million pounds were bought in al-Amal Banking, a corporation then being founded. The money was returned to the union a full year later with no gains because the incorporation had never been completed. This caused the fund the loss of 80,000 pounds.

As for the union's projects fund, documents show that the board spent 3.5 million pounds from the Young People's Housing Fund as advance payment to a contracting company a full year before the company obtained a building permit. As a result, the fund lost .5 million pounds of return during that year.

The debts of the union treasury to the pension fund have increased. They reached 5.6 million pounds in 1989 and rose to 13 million pounds in 1992. This led the engineers to write off 5 million pounds from the books. Furthermore, the settlement contract on behalf of the treasurer amounted to 212,000 pounds in one year.

Angered by this behavior, a group of engineers including Mahmud Rifa'i Khalil, Dr. Ahmad Husayn Ibrahim al-Ahwani, Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Azim al- Shahid, Muhammad Hijazi 'Abd-al-Hafiz, Hilmi Hanna al-Tawil, 'Abd-al- Muhsin Hammudah, and others brought suit about these violations. They were able to obtain a ruling imposing surveillance on the union as the only way to stop the hemorrhaging of engineers' funds.

The behavior goes beyond mere administration to misuse of money. Funds have been channeled for non-union purposes as a courtesy to such companies as Safir or Salsabil, both known for their pro-Brotherhood leanings. By the end of 1993, the two companies had drained off about 13 million pounds in union funds apart from other burdens they had imposed on the union. In one year these amounted to 4 million pounds.

The recent 1994 report of the Central Accounting Agency reveals that the value of advertisements for a single year in the union was 881,000 pounds. Union board members and branch heads received 96,000 pounds a year as compensation for attending meetings. Transportation and travel allowances amounted to about 167,000 pounds.

Pharmacists

The situation in the Pharmacists' Union is not very different. The union includes nearly 34,000 pharmacists, each of whom pays a yearly membership of 15 to 21 pounds. Since Muslim Brotherhood elements gained control of its board, the Pharmacists' Union has seen sharp disagreements among its members, including charges of fraud and tampering with voting lists. At the same time, Central Accounting Agency reports have uncovered serious tampering and errors in the union's funds.

The agency's latest report contains a number of observations about the handling of union funds, making it

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clear that there are no detailed books showing membership and registration fees collected from each branch. It is, therefore, difficult to determine the remaining general dues payable to the union, not to mention that annual memberships, some going back to 1978, have not been monitored.

The report shows that the union paid sums of 22,740 pounds and 12,120 pounds from its private funds to the account of two firms, the first at the Pyramids Project and the second in Madinat Nasr, without ascertaining the union's need for them, thereby tying up union funds. The report reveals that the Public Prosecutor's Office is investigating the failure to list the sum of 7,570,620 pounds, the difference between what was collected and paid by the branches on the land of 6th-of-October City. There are also differences totaling 7,000 pounds in the al-Qatamiyah Housing Project that do not appear in the relevant accounts on the books.

The report says that the union paid board members multiple transportation allowances for a single meeting. The union did not collect the value of advertisements worth 5,000 pounds in the pharmacists' magazine. It did not list contributions received by the humanitarian relief committee. Revealing the extent of misuse and waste of funds by board members belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood, the Patriotic Engineers say that a member of the union leadership was appointed to the board of the pharmaceutical holding company at a compensation of 20,000 pounds. Two other members of the union's office staff were appointed to the board of the Medical Trades Company with a compensation of 12,000 for each, although they are pharmacy owners. In one year, 120,000 pounds were spent on foreign travel allowances for members of the union board. The union's expenses under the heading of "hospitality" amounted to 33,000 pounds for one year.

Dr. Ahmad 'Awf reveals that the union held a Ramadan breakfast costing 50,000 pounds. He asks whether the money should not have been spent on needy sons and widows of pharmacists. Dr. Tharwat Basili says that the union's income and revenues would allow an increase in pharmacists' pensions, which are still 125 pounds. Every bottle of medicine sold in the markets has a medical professions stamp on it amounting to 3 percent. Every prescription has a 5 piaster stamp on it. Assuming that there are 30 million prescriptions a year, income to the Union of Medical Professions from this heading alone is at least 1.5 million pounds. Then there are other fees such as 25 piasters from all medical certificates, 2 pounds from each examination or analysis, 1 pound from fitting a set of teeth, and fees from all human and veterinary medicines, household and veterinary insecticides, cosmetics and medical cotton (on which there is a fee of 5 piasters on every kilo sold).

Dr. Hisham 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Ashram reveals that dozens of complaints have been submitted against the union board. They reveal the facts of fraud and tampering with voting lists. Dr. Makram Muhanna states that the union extorts a kind of payment from producing companies, as it always demands that they make voluntary contributions to its parties. Dr. Tharwat Basili adds, "The union board levies 1 pound from each member to be paid with each membership under the label of 'solidarity.' We have discovered that the money goes to holders of political views that agree with their leanings."

Dr. Tharwat Basili estimates that the Union of Medical Professions (composed of the physicians', pharmacists', veterinarians', and dentists' unions) has revenues of 24 million pounds a year. This comes from the 1 percent levied each year on the sale of medicines in Egypt as a tax collected to benefit the Union of Medical Professions. Dr. Tharwat explains that 70 percent of the total of 24 million enters the accounts of the Pharmacists' Union. If the money were spent on members of the union, the condition of the pension fund would improve and pharmacists' problems would be solved, especially as regards compensation for profession-related dangers, compensation for infection, health insurance, and other unresolved pharmacists' problems. Dr. Hisham al-Ashram adds that the way pharmacists' funds are spent is basically haphazard as regards conferences, advertisements, and parties. Systematic spending—so he says—is for political ends, to support the tendency of certain political elements.

Dr. Ahmad 'Awf ended the discussion of the Pharmacists' Union by stating that members of the Patriotic Front of Pharmacists were trying to hold a general meeting to discuss the report of the Central Accounting Agency and its important contents. 'Awf said that if the union president did not respond to the call and form a committee to investigate the facts, he and his colleagues would demand under the provisions of the law that judicial surveillance be imposed on the union, following the lead of what the engineers had done to save their union.

Lawyers

Among the professional unions, the 120,000-member Lawyers' Union, the last of the unions to fall under the control of Brotherhood elements, stands out as the subject of the largest number of court cases and challenges. Furthermore, the office of the attorney for public funds now is investigating a number of complaints concerning financial aberrations in the union since Brotherhood elements infiltrated it and took control. The union, whose capital no one has been able to determine, has revenues that include membership fees and stamp duties for legal defense and its personnel. Each member pays an average annual membership of 73 pounds, depending on the kind of registration. The recent Central Accounting Agency report revealed clear misuse of union funds, particularly relating to expenditures for medical treatment, pilgrimage trips, and the establishment of lawyers' clubs. The office of the attorney for public funds is continuing to investigate a number of complaints brought by a number of lawyers. The most prominent of them is Mamduh Tammam, a

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lawyer and former union board member. The complaints involve an estimated 5 million pounds.

Ahmad Jum'ah Shahatah, a lawyer, thinks that the issue is not only the hemorrhaging of money flowing from the union treasury, but also the danger of the "political use" of this money, particularly to support elements accused of defending terrorism or to subsidize pro-Brotherhood lawyers, as occurred in local board elections in the towns of al-Badrashayn and al-'Ayat.

Sayyid Abu-Zayd, a lawyer, says that the conferences on shari'ah law in each governorate cost nearly 20,000 pounds a conference. The conference on women, which cost 300,000 pounds and was held in a five-star hotel, was attended by only 50 participants.

Sa'id al-Far, a lawyer, reveals that the union announced expenditures totaling 7 million pounds a year on medical treatment, while the real cost of treatment may have been only 1.5 million pounds.

Ahmad Fu'ad, a lawyer, says that 500 pounds are paid to assist each arrested Brotherhood member, while the law limits the expenditure to 100 pounds for each prisoner.

Physicians

Conditions in the Physicians Union are similar. Brotherhood elements began to control the union with the replacement of half the board members in 1986; they attained complete control of the union in 1988.

The union has a membership of nearly 110,000 physicians, each of whom pays an average of 20 pounds a year.

No physician has been able to determine the union's capital because of the multiplicity of its financial sources. In addition to yearly membership fees, they include medical revenue stamps, contributions, certificate fees, and other things, as was explained by Dr. Muhammad Sharaf.

Since the takeover by Brotherhood elements, the Physicians' Union has been experiencing conflict and disputes, which have brought the union into court. Many doctors have challenged the latest election results, charging that union officials played tricks with the voter rolls.

Central Accounting Agency reports reveal cases of financial laxity in the union, especially the lack of organized accounts of the donations and gifts that the union receives on behalf of the International Relief Committee, which is controlled by Brotherhood elements.

Physicians complain that the committee's money, which is considered to be part of the physicians' money, has been spent in Afghanistan, Somalia, and Bosnia on certain political guidelines for purposes far removed from union activity. The committee's activity has been limited to certain areas such as Peshawar on the Pakistani border with Afghanistan and in the Philippines and Kashmir.

Dr. Ibrahim 'Awf, who visited Somalia and Djibouti on behalf of the committee, acknowledged that the union authorized $25,000 for its mission to Somalia and Djibouti.

Dr. Ibrahim 'Awf said that the committee, whose chairman, Dr. 'Isam al- 'Iryan, is a Brotherhood leader, belongs to the union. Dr. Ibrahim refused to reveal the committee's capital. He merely said that it received contributions and assistance from charitable people in Egypt and abroad.

Physicians complain that Brotherhood elements have shifted the union's activity from professional activity to a political role that has taken on a clearly sectarian dimension. Dr. Wasim al-Sisi says that union funds should remain for physicians instead of going to Afghanistan and Somalia, so as to improve the conditions of physicians, especially those who are young people; for the profession and those in charge of it need a kind of medical reform. Dr. al-Sisi adds that one of the most dangerous things these people have done is to change the professional oath from the Hippocratic Oath to a sectarian oath that discriminates among people of a single nation and profession. Dr. Najwa Murad thinks that the union's present administrators do not really represent the physicians. They have shifted union activity toward activity that serves a particular political current and have turned the majority of physicians into a "neglected quantity." Commenting on the situation, Dr. Samir Fayyad said: "Perhaps the recent change in Law 100 that raised their wrath can be attributed to the fact that the change came as a commentary on events. It will reduce the influence of their organized minority and increase physicians' participation in voting. Thus, the majority will determine who represents it."

To Conclude

With all that is being said about "loose money" in some unions, and despite the investigations and the rulings that have been made about these aberrations and other matters, the question remains: Who will save the unions' funds from being lost? Who will restore to the unions their professional and national role?

[Box, p.17]

Pharmacist Muslim Brothers spent 33,000 pounds on hospitality for their members and 292,000 pounds to print a magazine to serve as their mouthpiece.

Transportation allowances for engineer Muslim Brothers were 263,000 in a single year. Seventeen million pounds were lost in the coffers of Muslim Brotherhood companies.

Libya

Foreign Liaison Committee Rejects Clinton Speech

LD0205195095 Tripoli JANA in English 1900 GMT 2 May 95

[Statement issued by the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation on

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speech by President Clinton to the World Jewish Congress on 30 April; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Maa [May] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY— The American President Bill Clinton has indicated in his letter which was quoted by various international media, to the World Jewish Congress held in New York on 30/4/1995 that the Great Jamahariyah is accused of being amongst the states which seek to possess nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, as it strongly denounces the insistence of the American administration to implicate the Great Jamahariyah name by considering it amongst the states which seek to possess nuclear weapons... confirms the following:

1- The Great Jamahariyah has repeatedly confirmed its rejection for terrorism in all its forms and aspects. It had shown total readiness for international cooperation with the aim of eliminating terrorism, and it did not act in the manner which is followed by the American administration, pastly and presently, to terrorize the nations and the states and plotting against their security, safety and integrity of territory.

2- The Great Jamahariyah has repeatedly confirmed that it does not seek to possess nuclear weapons and that it does not have the intention, nor the desire, nor material or technical capabilities to produce such form of weapons, and that it had already allowed the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency to visit it, in 1992, and he consequently confirmed that Libya is committed to the requirements of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The United States, and all others know quite well all these facts, in addition to the fact that the Great Jamahariyah is a member nation and a signatory in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

3- Even though there is one state in possession of an arsenal of nuclear weapons threatening the security and stability of the area and did not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the American President did not mention it in his speech and did not make any hint to it. Furthermore the United States is offering material, military and technical assistance for that state and provide it with protection to remain exempted from all international laws and obligations.

4- The Great Jamahariyah strongly rejects the statement by the American President and his description for Libya as a criminal state and considers that manner unsuitable in international dealings and reveals a deeply rooted aggressive spirit against the Great Jamahariyah and that criminality, arrogance and the tendency to dominate qualify all American acts and behaviours. America has styled itself as a guardian for the globe, and for that purpose it behaves on the way it likes, including terrorising the world, as had been confirmed by the former French president who talked recently revealing an American-French conspiracy to destabilize the regime in Libya in 1981. He revealed that the conspiracy had been rejected by the French President Mitterrand, who stopped it.

The United States has carried in collaboration with Britain in 1986 a bombing raid by American aircrafts on Libyan cities and against the residence of the leader of the revolution.

We are alerting the whole international public opinion to the dangers of such statements and its implications on the security and stability of the world. We call for the need to confront this conduct which violates international laws and conventions.

Saudi Stance Against U.S. 'Encroachment' Lauded

LD0205163195 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1456 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 2 May (JANA)—AP has reported that Saudi Interior Minister Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz yesterday scolded the U.S. Government for criticizing Saudi Arabia for not permitting a U.S. piracy operation against a Lebanese airliner, on board which a Lebanese national was travelling, and for the U.S. stance on Saudi Arabia's allowing a Libyan Arab pilgrims' aircraft to land in Jeddah airport.

The agency quoted the Saudi minister as saying: We are not prepared to compromise on any issue that concerns our sovereignty.

Commenting on this serious and correct Saudi stance, the Arab affairs editor of the Libyan news agency JANA said:

The U.S. Government believed that Arab rulers were its lowly hirelings, who would comply with its orders, fulfili its requests, and allow Arab airspace and territories to be violated to satisfy hostile U.S. whims. However, it has become evident that the United States was completely wrong to believe that. The courage of Arabs is well known, their honor is beyond any doubt, and they will not allow the United States or anyone else to undermine that honor.

The editor said that the United States also believed that it had regions of influence and that there were non-independent states in the region which were subordinate to it and ready to act as instruments to carry out its schemes and hostile objectives. However, the erroneous U.S. assessment and calculations have become clear in the courageous Saudi stance.

At the end of his comment, JANA's Arab affairs editor praised the Saudi Arabian serious and correct stance which emerged again through the Saudi interior minister's response to the blatant U.S. encroachment. This stance has confirmed the fact that Arab sovereignty

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cannot be compromised and that Arab honor and gallantry cannot be squandered to please colonialist crusader whims.

The editor said: This stance deserves appreciation and pride on the path of recording more decisive pan-Arab stances until the Arab nation triumphs over all its enemies.

Official Meets Chinese Central Committee Member

LD3004155795 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 30 April—The secretary of the General People's Congress [GPC] this morning met Li Chengren, member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the party's deputy director of the International Liaison Department, and his accompanying delegation who are currently on a visit to the Great Jamahariyah.

The meeting, which was attended by the Chinese ambassador to Great Jamahariyah, focused on discussing and reviewing relations between the two friendly countries and means of strengthening them to serve the mutual interests of the Libyan and Chinese peoples.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed developing relations between the secretariat of the GPC and the Chinese Communist Party.

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Bahrain

'Responsible Source' on Confessions of 'Terrorist'

JN0205180095 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 2 May (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Interior of the State of Bahrain has stated that the members of the terrorist group which set fire to high-tension electric cables under the Satrah Bridge [name as transliterated] on 16 March, have made full confessions before the investigating judge.

The judge ordered the detention of this terrorist group, which includes 28-year-old government employee 'Ali Muhammad Ahmad Kazim al-Mahdi, 25-year-old worker 'Ali Ibrahim 'Ali Ahmad, and 26-year-old worker Samir Ahmad 'Ali Husayn.

The source said that the detailed confessions made by the members of the terrorist group before the investigating judge included details of training on how to make local timed incendiary bombs used to set fire to the places in which they are planted. They also admitted that as part of a terrorist plan to harm the country's security and to frighten both citizens and residents, they agreed to destroy the vital high-tension electric cables under the Satrah Bridge which provide Manama with electricity. Therefore, on 16 March, in accordance with a prepared plan, and in light of the mission assigned to each of them, the members of this group planted two incendiary bombs under the Satrah Bridge and left the scene after setting the timers of the bombs. One hour after their departure from the scene, the bombs went off, causing damage to the high-tension electric cables.

The responsible source added that the teams of the Civil Defense Department and the fire brigades rushed to the scene and extinguished the fire with modern equipment, thus preventing the fire from spreading to the remaining electric cables. This also prevented severe damage to the bridge and traffic jams. The competent organs of the Ministry of Public Works, Electricity, and Water took all the necessary measures.

Concluding, the source stressed that the security organs are eager to unveil such actions and to bring the perpetrators to court. He also praised the efficiency of the men of the Civil Defense Department and the fire brigades who took part in extinguishing the fire in cooperation with the competent organs of the Ministry of Public Works, Electricity, and Water.

Prison Terms Issued for Damaging Property

JN0205203495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 2 May (WAKH)—The State Security Court in the State of Bahrain today sentenced six people to various prison terms for burning or damaging cars, rioting, and carrying out acts of violence against policemen.

In today's session, the court sentenced defendant 'Abd-al-Razzaq Mansur to five years in prison for burning and damaging private cars belonging to citizens and residents, creating disturbances, and carrying out acts of violence against policemen.

The court also sentenced defendants 'Ali Salih al-Jallawi, Sami Habib Nasir, Tahir Ahmad Salman, and Hasan 'Ali Hasan Bu-Khalaf each to three years in prison on charges of illegal gathering and using violence against policemen. It gave a one year suspended sentence to defendant Hamzah 'Id Ahmad Bassirah.

Kuwait

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Vietnam

LD0305101095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0933 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 3 May—Kuwait and Vietnam today signed an economic, scientific, and technical cooperation agreement, as well as a trade cooperation agreement. [passage omitted] The two agreements are aimed at strengthening trade and economic relations between the two countries by means of an exchange of technical and scientific know-how in various domains. The agreements were signed on the occasion of the current visit of the president of Vietnam to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

*Farms in DMZ To Be Shut Down for Military Zone

95P50104A Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 6 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by 'Abdallah al-Shammari and Taha Amin: "In Preparation for Establishing a Military Zone; 97 Farms To Be Closed in the Demilitarized Zone in 'Abdali; al-Dakhil Asks the Agricultural Commission To Find Suitable New Farms for Citizens."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Planning 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil asked the head of the General Commission for Agriculture and its general director, Engineer Fahd al-Hissawi, to report to him immediately on the difficulties in closing down farms that are located within the demilitarized zone in the al-'Abdali border region.

AL-WATAN has learned that al-Hissawi was notified through official note No. 1537 in response to a request from the Farmers Union president that new locations be found for the farms that need to be closed completely in order to change the area to a Kuwaiti military zone because of the ever-changing security situation.

Only 97 farms are within the demilitarized zone after the Iraqi invasion. They range in size between a half million

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to 2 million square meters. But these farms contain large numbers of buildings, greenhouses, and large agricultural equipment.

A high-level source in the Public Commission for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries has emphasized the commission's concern with relocation of the farms from the demilitarized zone for security reasons. He explained to AL-WATAN that the commission is trying its best to ensure stability for the owners of these farms and safe continuation of their agricultural activities.

The above source emphasized that a series of meetings presently is being held that and different farms are being visited to study the possibility of relocating them. They explained that this subject is still under intense study and that no final decision has been made yet.

The above source indicated that members of the committee—including high officials in the commission such as Engineer Jassim Habib al-Badr, deputy director for regions and agricultural services; Dawud al-Salih; and Malihah al-'Umani—have a sense of urgency about finding new locations that are safe and that offer necessary services for farmers.

The above source also expressed the value the commission places on boosting border security and efforts by the border guards. He clarified that most of the individuals sneaking across the border have been escaping harsh living conditions in Iraq and are looking for security.

Some attacks on the farm-owners have led to a cessation of activity on these farms; consequently, all concerned are looking for a solution that will guarantee safety and security to farm-owners.

The above source also said that the commission is ready to coordinate and talk with the Ministries of Interior, Defense, and Petroleum on this subject and to find alternative locations that do not interfere with security arrangements or activities of these ministries. Malihah al-'Umani, director of the Technical Office of the deputy director of the commission, told AL-WATAN that a large number of these farms are not in operation and that the Commission had previously issued a decision on 22 September 1993 to close farms in a 2-km-wide border area. He added that the present study by the commission is a revival of the old study, which recommended closing down the farms]; however, a decision was delayed at the time.

Al-'Umani said that the farms being studied are important international border markers and happen to contain some of the most fertile soils in the country. Also, since the liberation, a lot of money has been spent to prepare the land for production. The average production in the border farms has reached 53 percent of the cumulative production of the 'Abdali farms, whose production is now up to 60 percent of what it was before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

*New Irrigation Network in al-Wafra Completed

95P50105A Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Jasim Habib al-Badr said that the fresh water irrigation network in the al-Wafra region has been completed. He is the deputy director of regional affairs and agricultural services in the agricultural commission and fisheries.

In a statement to AL-WATAN, he emphasized that a large number of farmers have benefited from this service, which is provided by the country for improving the agricultural field in general.

Engineer al-Badr expects that fresh water irrigation will gradually reach all farms even though some farmers have not subscribed to this project for various reasons.

Regarding fees for getting the water to the farms, the assistant deputy director said that the matter was decided by the Ministry of Electricity and Water since it is the authority that supplies water to the agricultural areas. Thus the details and final results will only be discussed by the Agricultural Commission.

He thinks that if there is a possibility of lowering the water prices to the area, it can be reconsidered as long as it is in the service of society. But, it is too early to consider fee restructuring.

It should be noted that this fresh water for irrigation is being sold to farmers at two dinars per thousand imperial gallons, which the farmers think is high. They are protesting it.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Minister Accuses U.S. of Interference

LD0205151995 Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris Al-Ma' [May] 2, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Saudi interior minister, Nayif Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, denounced the American government's accusation against his country due to the reception of the Libyan-Arab airline which transported the Libyan Arab pilgrims in fulfillment of their haj duties.

The minister asserted in a statement to Radio Monte Carlo yesterday that the American accusation against his country constitutes an interference in the internal affairs of Saudi Arabia and the reception of the Libyan pilgrims aeroplane is a matter concerning Saudi Arabia alone.

King Receives Jordanian Ambassador's Credentials

JN0305063495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Hani Khalifah yesterday presented his credentials to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, as the ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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Khalifah conveyed His Majesty King Husayn's greetings and best wishes to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, asked that his greetings and best wishes be conveyed to his brother His Majesty King Husayn.

The ambassador said he looks forward to consolidating the fraternal relations between both sisterly countries in the service of their common interests and those of the Arab and Islamic nations under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn and his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

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Opposition: Iraqi Forces Advancing on al-'Amarah

JN0205161295 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1450 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our sources in the south report that the tyrant has massed more troops on the outskirts of the marshes of al-'Amarah Governorate in preparation for new attacks on the residential areas.

The sources add that columns of tanks and artillery regiments were recently sighted moving on the main road between Baghdad and al-'Amarah and that they were escorted by armed patrols to protect them from the jihad operations our jihad factions carry out in these areas. [passage omitted]

Opposition Claims Officers Arrested for Collusion

NC0205154395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi ruling regime recently arrested a number of officers and moved them to a detention center in Baghdad that belongs to military intelligence. It has been learned from informed [words indistinct] sources that the arrests included a number of [words indistinct] officers who work in the military units deployed in southern Iraq. The sources say that these officers are charged with failure to perform their military duties and colluding with factions opposed to the regime.

Speaker Briefs Athens Conference Team on Blockade

JN0205112995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0957 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received Dr. Chris Dames [name as transliterated], head of the delegation of the second Athens International Conference, currently on a visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization.

During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker reviewed the dangers posed to Iraq as a result of the continuation of the unjust blockade imposed on it, which contravenes the simplest international norms and laws.

He said the Iraqi people have rejected resolution 986 which was issued by the UN Security Council because it is an unjust resolution aimed at entrenching the unjust blockade clamped on it, and also because it is considered a flagrant interference of Iraq's internal affairs. He pointed out that Iraq's just demand lies in the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and the release of its frozen assets abroad to enable it to to purchase food and medicine and to exercise its legitimate rights.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih praised the delegation's humanitarian stands toward the Iraqi people, and its principled support for their just causes represented by honorable living away from foreign interference. He noted that this humanitarian role is highly respected and appreciated by the Iraqi people.

Dames described the continuation of the blockade on the Iraqi people as an inhuman action, stressing that all the good people in the world will continue their solidarity with the Iraqi people until they restore their legitimate rights.

He said that the objective of the delegation's visit is to get acquainted with the Iraqi people's conditions and suffering as a result of the continuation of the blockade and its serious repercussions on the future of their sons.

He praised the brave and resolute confrontation by the Iraqi people and their leadership of all the evil schemes and conspiracies of the colonialist forces.

Albright Tour Confirms 'Aggressive' U.S. Policy

JN0305073295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0605 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the U.S. Administration is exercising political and economic pressure on certain states to force them to yield to its schemes, which aim at preserving the U.S. and Zionist interests in certain vital regions of the world, particularly the Arab homeland.

In an article today commenting on [U.S. Envoy Madeleine] Albright's tour of the region, the paper says: The aggressiveness and arrogance displayed by Albright during the UN Security Council sessions, which were devoted to discussing the unfair embargo imposed against Iraq, were not enough to impose the U.S. viewpoint on the UN Security Council members.

The paper adds: This tour confirms the aggressive attitude of the United States toward Iraq, which rejects every form of foreign hegemony. This position is directly linked to U.S. interests in the Arab homeland and the U.S. Administration's keenness to tighten its control over this region because it constitutes the key to the future of U.S. policy in the world.

The paper says this tour signals the failure of the U.S. Administration's policy to impose its new world order. The paper adds that Albright is trying to drive a wedge among the Arab states and isolate steadfast Iraq, which can expose the U.S. and Zionist gimmicks and schemes in the region.

The paper also notes that the U.S. policy is devising means to plunder Iraq's national wealth and use it to finance the treacherous and secessionist agents of the United States under false humanitarian slogans, as if it was not content with milking the Gulf oil shaykhs and amirs.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH warns that the conspiracies and plots the U.S. Administration is hatching against Iraq can be hatched against any other Arab country if U.S. and Zionist interests dictate. This is what is actually happening now with Libya and, in an indirect way, with other Arab states.

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Rabin on Talks With Syria, Upcoming U.S. Visit

TA0305111795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (YOM HA'ATZMA'UT supplement) in Hebrew 3 May 95 pp 6, 7

[Independence Day interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Shim'on Schiffer at the Prime Minister's Office; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Schiffer] You are leaving for Washington as soon as Independence Day is over. What new ideas on the Syrian issue will you be taking with you?

[Rabin] This is not about revised stands; this is about ways to improve the negotiations.

[Schiffer] Do you not feel the negotiations have reached an end?

[Rabin] I do not want to say that about any negotiations. Negotiations with an Arab state are not simple. It is a prolonged process. We would not have reached a peace treaty with Egypt without a prolonged, phased process. What a pity Egypt and Israel had to go to war and lose thousands of people before they changed their stands. It will be a shame if we have to go through another war with Syria before we attain a peace process.

[Schiffer] Are you willing to withdraw your demand for a reduction in the size of the Syrian Army?

[Rabin] At the meeting of the chiefs of staff, which addressed general aspects of the security arrangements, the subject arose that if we attain peace, we will have to reduce the burden of defense expenditures. We should remember that the peace treaty with Egypt contained no such clause. The government did not demand it at that time. What happened later was that not only did the size of the Egyptian armed forces not shrink but even grew. That was what Egypt wanted.

In my opinion, when we are about to sign a peace treaty with another country, this issue should be settled through understandings and by consent and not necessarily as part of the terms of the agreement. Neither the peace treaty with Egypt nor the one with Jordan required these countries to cut back their military force. They were certainly not required to reduce it.

[Schiffer] Do you think Syria wants a peace agreement now?

[Rabin] I believe the Syrian leadership wants a peace treaty. The problem is: What peace and at what cost? It is over this question that negotiations are waged.

[Schiffer] To date, you have not proposed that the Americans make their own proposals. Do you plan to propose this course in your talk with Clinton?

[Rabin] So far, agreements were reached through direct contacts. The United States helped. In the case of Syria, we do not have the same format of bilateral negotiations we had with Egypt, the PLO, and Jordan. In the case of Syria, everything is done in the presence of the Americans. So far, the Americans have been very positive. I think it will be very bad if the United States formulates stands of its own that are unacceptable to both sides. I stress: both sides, not just us. I think that by defining stands of their own, they would be making a mistake.

[Schiffer] The Israeli Government's public stand on an agreement with Syria has undergone major changes in the past 18 months. What changes, if any, have taken place in the Syrian approach?

[Rabin] These changes are insufficient if we are to attain a peace treaty acceptable to me—and I am only speaking for myself. There are still discrepancies between us and them on most vital issues.

[Schiffer] The question was what, if anything, has changed in the Syrian position.

[Rabin] The progress as reported by the Americans lies in the Syrian acknowledgment that although we strive toward peace, our demands are a precondition. There is a limit to the price, the timing, and other elements.

[Schiffer] Do they now agree to full peace, to having Israelis tour Damascus?

[Rabin] Yes. Without setting dates, the answer is yes. It is the ultimate objective: an open border; diplomatic relations. That is how I understand the situation as reported by the Americans.

[Schiffer] Is that your interpretation or your knowledge?

[Rabin] I have not spoken with al-Asad. Peres has not spoken with al-Shar'. Our conclusions are based on U.S. briefings. I believe them.

[Schiffer] Was everything Peres said about the price of peace with Syria—that we would have to return to the international border—coordinated with you?

[Rabin] Peres did not make the remarks that were attributed to him. He said that one Israeli Government, the national unity government, had decided right after the Six-Day War that in order to reach full peace and security arrangements, it would be willing to withdraw to the international border with Egypt and Syria. That government recanted a few months later.

[Schiffer] Why do you not make a similar decision today?

[Rabin] At this stage, I see no need to commit Israel to a specific scope of withdrawal. I do not know yet what the Syrians will offer in exchange, what the timetables and security arrangements will be.

[Schiffer] Can you anticipate what will happen by next Independence Day? Will you meet with al-Asad in the course of the year?

[Rabin] We all know who has the gift of prophecy. I cannot make forecasts. I can only make a wish. I would

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like very much for us to be able to bring the draft of a peace treaty with Syria for the people to decide in a referendum within a year. A peace treaty with Syria would have a significant impact on the Arab-Israeli conflict and even beyond that. [passage omitted]

[Schiffer] Will you raise the matter of Pollard's release during your visit to Washington?

[Rabin] I will not discuss the topics of my talks on the eve of my trip, other than to say that I, like every Israeli, hope that after almost 10 years in prison, he will be set free in one way or another.

[Schiffer] Keeping in mind the trends in the new Congress, will you not initiate a revision of the U.S. aid volume?

[Rabin] Absolutely not. I am convinced that Middle East stability, calm, and peace will not be achieved unless the United States conducts its policy from a position of military strength and unless it grants foreign aid. I am not talking about the scope of aid granted by President Carter in a bid to achieve peace between Egypt and Israel.

The United States played a relatively minor role in the peace with Jordan. I think it was insufficient. If the United States wants to have an impact—and this is in its interest—it should extend aid. The process will not advance without economic progress.

[Schiffer] Many Americans are asking why they should aid a country that has an annual income of $14,000 per capita.

[Rabin] Israel is now at a stage where both security and peace cost money. The U.S. economy has a vested interest in peace and calm in this region.

[Schiffer] You made a very dramatic pronouncement this year. You said terror has become a strategic problem for the State of Israel. On second thought, after a few calm weeks, would you say terror is truly a strategic problem?

[Rabin] When I think of 1948, of the War of Independence, the longest and most painful war of all, and compare it with today's reality, our current situation looks almost like a dream come true. The 600,000 Jews who lived here at that time were the nucleus of the state. Today, we have a state with 5.4 million citizens, 4.4 million of whom are Jewish. We are a militarily and economically strong country, with two peace treaties, and I am proud of that. I view the peace treaty with Jordan as Israel's greatest achievement since last Independence Day. Furthermore, I believe the treaty will develop into model relations of peace.

Israel is faced with two security threats. One is the threat of military attack by Arab countries; this threat has diminished, although it has not vanished altogether. The second is terror, which has never been and is not a threat to our existence. Yet today terror threatens the Israeli Government's peace strategy. Were I to be asked today what impedes the further implementation of the Oslo agreement, I would say: Terror is the main obstacle. [passage omitted]

Sources: U.S. Made Arms Deal Public for Future Gain

TA0305094495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 May 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by Aluf Ben and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel and the United States will soon sign a new arms deal for more than $400 million of the U.S. military aid funds. The deal, which aims at strengthening the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] ground forces, will include MLRS artillery rocket systems and progressive TOW antitank missiles.

The U.S. Department of Defense announced the deal on the eve of the visit by Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, to the United States and his meetings with President Bill Clinton and Secretary of Defense William Perry. [passage omitted]

Israeli political sources say that the negotiations on the deal have not yet been concluded. They believe that the U.S. Administration chose to make the deal public in order to pave the way for additional arms sales to Arab countries, in view of Israel's opposition to such deals. In this context, the Israeli sources said that Israel has not yet made a final decision regarding the purchase of the TOW missiles because, among other things, Israel wants to avoid setting a precedent that would make it easier for the administration to provide the Arabs with such missiles. [passage omitted]

Jewish Vote May Be Factor in U.S. Move on Iran

TA0205154495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 May 95 p 8

[Commentary by Avino'am Bar-Yosef: "An Eye on the Jewish Vote"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The struggle for the financial support of U.S. Jews in the 1996 electoral campaigns is still far off, but it did not escape President Bill Clinton when he made the decision to impose sanctions on Iran, contrary to the Energy and Commerce Departments' recommendations. In fact, Clinton found himself between a rock and a hard place: On the one hand, when he entered the White House, Clinton placed the task of improving the economic situation and creating new jobs at the top of his list of national priorities. This challenge dictates a constant search for cracks that would enable an expansion of international trade.

On the other hand, Senator Alfonse D'Amato and Congressman Peter King of the Republican Party initiated far-reaching legislation for the imposition of sanctions against the Tehran rulers. This proposal, in practice, imposes a total commercial boycott on Iran.

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D'Amato and King have coordinated with two very influential Jewish organizations: the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the pro-Israeli lobby AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee]. The proposal will get under way on Capitol Hill today. Clinton saw what was coming and decided to be there first, taking advantage of the stage of the Jewish Congress, a third organization ruled by moguls Charles and Edgar Bronfman, to make his proposal public.

Clinton's proposal is more moderate than D'Amato's because it does not include the secondary and tertiary boycott. Clinton explained that the proposal for expanded sanctions might harm U.S. relations with its allies in Europe and Japan.

But Clinton's eye on the Jewish support has a more far-reaching meaning. D'Amato's is already set to fire off another proposal: the bill on moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Republicans also plan to adopt a harsher attitude toward the PLO. The President might find himself in a bind on this issue as well, which would [words indistinct] campaign promises a lot of interest regarding Israel.

PA Agreeable to 14 Month W. Bank Withdrawal Plan

TA0205122795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 May 95 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians are now tending to accept the Israeli plan under which West Bank cities will be evacuated in stages and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment will last at least 14 months. This has been disclosed by a senior military source who is involved in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

According to the senior military source, the defense establishment has finalized the redeployment plan entitled Spectrum-B. Under the plan, which has been approved by Major General Matan Vilna'i, the deputy chief of staff, six cities—Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Nabulus, Ramallah, and Bethlehem—will be evacuated over no less than one year and two months. Hebron does not feature in the plan.

Some two months will elapse between the full evacuation of one city and the beginning of the evacuation of the next, during which time Israel will examine the Palestinian Authority's [PA] handling of the terror problem. "We will continue evacuating only after we have ascertained that there is no terrorist activity in locations we have evacuated," the senior military source said.

The plan indicates that the defense establishment is unanimous on the need to begin the evacuation process in Janin, which poses less of a security problem. Tulkarm and Qalqilyah pose no dire security problems either. A difficulty exists in Bethlehem, where a bypass road is yet to be built. The most problematic cities from the security viewpoint are Ramallah and Nabulus, where the IDF expects difficulties in maintaining security on main and bypass roads.

According to the source, the IDF has a definitive plan for each city. Replying to a question, the military source explained that if terrorist activities are carried out, the IDF will be able to regain control of any of the evacuated cities.

The duration of the evacuation was finalized at a meeting held by Gen. Vilna'i several weeks ago, at which various aspects of the Spectrum-B plan were addressed. According to some participants of the meeting, it was further decided on that occasion that unless the peace process suffers from further delays, the implementation of the evacuation plan should start around November 1995.

The senior military source stressed that while the actual date and mode of city evacuation will be determined by the political echelons, the plan represents the defense establishment's recommendation.

Construction Plans for East Jerusalem Arabs Detailed

TA0205154195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 May 95 p A2

[Report by Nadav Shragay, Ziv Ma'or, and Gabi Zohar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem Municipality engineer Uri Ben-Asher yesterday submitted a document to Mayor Ehud Olmert in which he writes that a large proportion of the land allotted for construction for Arabs in East Jerusalem is not provided with infrastructure such as water, roads, electricity, and sewage and that in some cases this absence of infrastructure precludes building.

The document also indicates that it is possible to immediately issue 8,830 building permits for Arabs in East Jerusalem, but that in most of these areas the Arabs are not applying for such permits.

The document, prepared by the Jerusalem Municipality Planning Department, deals with the plans and building permits in East Jerusalem. According to the document, at present there are building permits for 12,050 housing units within the framework of 14 municipal blueprints in the following areas: Bayt Hanina north, Bayt Hanina south, Shu'fat, 'Isawiyah, al-Shaykh Jarrah, Wadi al-Jawz, al-Tur, al-Thawani, Damascus Gate, al-Shaykh, Dayr Abu-Tur, Jabal al-Mukabbir, Bayt Safafa, and Wadi al-Hulwah.

The document also notes that the ratio between building requests submitted and the permits issued in the Arab sector is identical to the ratio in the Jewish sector, although the number of requests submitted in the Jewish sector is several times higher.

The document also states that 3,050 additional building requests for Arab housing units are currently being processed.

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Ben-Asher recommends to Olmert the following: "In order for development and construction to go on in Arab villages we should act in several directions: complete planning mainly in northern Jerusalem; invest funds in infrastructure and road development; and confiscate private land for building Arab housing projects, as well as for other public needs." [passage omitted]

Blueprints for East Jerusalem neighborhoods were started in 1983. The largest plan, 3000B, was prepared for the Bayt Hanina-Shu'fat area. After various transformations undergone for 12 years in planning committees, the plan at present involves 7,500 housing units, but it is not being implemented on the ground. The Arab sector itself is to a large extent responsible for this situation and for a similar situation in many other areas in East Jerusalem for which the municipality approved construction permits:

—Ownership of land in many parts of East Jerusalem has not been officially established, and many plots of land remain unzoned.

—In Jerusalem's northern areas—where most of the land reserve for Arab construction is located—land ownership is limited to a few families who are not interested in selling their land.

—The procedures whereby 40 percent of the land for which a blueprint is presented is allocated to public construction—which is customary in the Jewish sector—are alien and unacceptable to the Arab public.

—The planners found it hard to bridge the gap between rural construction in most areas and the urbanization process that these villages are undergoing.

—The Arab sector in Jerusalem is marked by a relatively high incidence of illegal construction. This fact hindered comprehensive planning because land reserves could not be used to build roads, construction encroached on green areas, and moreover, the possibilities for future improvement of Arab residential areas were blocked.

Two years ago a Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies team wrote: "Some of the problems are objective in nature, some are emotional, and others yet are political. But the main problem is the fact that the political echelon has not issued a consistent directive regarding planning and work to be done by the planning echelon."

First Quarter Import-Export, Currency Data Reported

TA0205124995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 May 95 p 8

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Imports rose by more than a third in the first quarter, as the demand for production inputs, imported consumer goods machinery and equipment soared, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Imports jumped 36.3 percent in the first quarter, as industrial machinery and equipment imports rose a sharp 41.4 percent and industrial input imports increased 34.5 percent.

Similarly, consumer imports took off, expanding 143 percent in the first quarter.

Durable imports—including cars, furniture, refrigerators, and laundry machines—shot up 114 percent after rising 40 percent in November and December.

Exports, excluding diamonds, experienced a turnaround as they increased 36.3 percent after dropping a steep 45 percent in November and December.

Industrial exports, which make up about a third of industrial production, rose 18 percent after tumbling in the preceding two months.

The trade gap—excluding diamonds, fuel, ships and aircraft—averaged $670 million a month, compared with $600m a month in the previous two months.

Industrial production rose 3.1 percent in January and February, after increasing 14 percent in the previous two months. Production jumped 82 percent in the sector that produces construction inputs. Similarly, production in heavy industry—including the metal, machinery, electric equipment and transportation vehicles sectors—rose 23 percent and increased a more moderate 12 percent in the light industries.

By contrast, production fell between 6 percent and 7 percent in the food industry. Cement sales, a good indicator of construction activity, shot up 97 percent during January and February, after falling sharply in the previous two months.

Retail sales soared 16.1 percent, following a 4 percent rise in the previous two months. Food sales grew 18 percent, after rising 7 percent in the previous two months.

Tourism, as measured by the number of tourist arrivals by air, climbed 25 percent, after dropping 7 percent in November and December. By contrast, tourist hotel stays fell 6 percent, after rising 20 percent in November and December.

Seasonally adjusted consumer price increases moderated at an annual rate of 4 percent in the first quarter, after rising at a rate of 12 percent in the previous two months. By contrast, producer prices continued climbing 11 percent, after rising at that rate in November and December.

The currency basket gained 11 percent compared with a 7 percent drop in November and December, while the dollar fell 6 percent against the shekel, after gaining 2 percent in November and December.

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Reportage on U.S. Ambassador Albright's Visit

Arrives Amman, Meets al-Kabariti

JN0205164295 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 2 May (PETRA)—Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, in his office today. They discussed Jordanian-U.S. relations and the latest developments at the conference for reviewing and extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] currently convening in New York.

During the meeting that was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman, al-Kabariti spelled out Jordan's stand seeking to enhance the NPT's objectives and its universality.

For her part, Mrs. Albright explained the U.S. stand on the issue.

The two sides also reviewed the latest developments on the negotiations tracks. Al-Kabariti said that Jordan and Israel pursue their negotiations in a positive manner to finalize the agreements stemming from the peace treaty. He said that these agreements will be completed within the time limit set in the peace treaty, that Jordan's endeavors focus on safeguarding and enhancing peace, and that Jordan's efforts on the Arab level aim to serve these objectives.

Madeleine Albright arrived in Amman via the King Husayn Bridge at noon today on a visit that will last several days during which she will meet with ranking officials.

Foreign Ministry representatives, the director of the Bridges Security Detachments, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman were present to welcome her on arrival.

Reviews Peace Process With King

JN0205183895 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and the delegation accompanying her at the Royal Hashemite Court today.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the peace process in the region and its latest developments. His Majesty King Husayn stressed Jordan's support for the realization of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region—a peace that would enable the region's peoples to resume their march of development and progress and prepare for the future, and whose fruits and results are felt by the people.

Albright paid tribute to His Majesty King Husayn's relentless efforts to achieve peace. She stressed the importance of the constructive role Jordan is playing in all areas, and reiterated her country's appreciation for the Jordanian Armed Forces' participation in the peacekeeping operations in some turbulent areas in the world as part of the UN efforts in this respect.

The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, Chief of the Royal Court; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, the military secretary of his majesty the king; and the U.S. ambassador to Jordan.

Views Disarmament With Prince Hasan

JN0205190295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening. Albright is currently touring the region.

The discussion during the meeting dealt with the Jordanian stand on mass destruction weapons disarmament in the Middle East, and the international efforts for attaining a balanced formula among world countries that ensures well-established security measures in the region and the world.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan reviewed Jordan's stand on issues of security and regional cooperation. Madeleine Albright praised His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's affirmation at the meeting of the need to give more importance to the human dimension in international relations as this will benefit international relations in the next century.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan told the U.S. representative to the United Nations that the UN's 50th anniversary celebrations this year should not just be a ceremonial occasion but that its momentum should be exploited to give a push to international relations in the forthcoming stage in a manner that will stop the disputes and fighting the world nowadays witnesses.

Albright praised the efforts made by Jordan under His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan to achieve a just, balanced, and lasting peace in the region which has suffered much in the past.

Muhammad al-Saqqaf, the crown prince's adviser; Dr. Ahmad Mangu [not further identified]; Nabil al-Talhuni, director of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Department, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Meets Prime Minister on Peace Issues

JN0305104595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received in his office at the Prime Ministry this morning Mrs. Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, in the presence of Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti.

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During the meeting, they reviewed regional and international developments, led by the peace process and the need for all parties concerned to exert efforts in order to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region.

The prime minister stressed Jordan's pivotal role in the peace process and in consolidating regional cooperation in the interest of all its peoples. He also pointed to the role Jordan is playing in the regional and international arenas in order to achieve peace in various areas of disturbances through the Jordanian Armed Forces' contribution to international peace-keeping operations.

Mrs. Albright described her talks with his excellency the prime minister as positive regarding the various issues discussed. She stressed the importance of the Jordanian role in enhancing regional peace as well as her country's appreciation for the role the Jordanian Armed Forces are playing in international peace-keeping operations.

Official Resigns Over Media Actions on Albright Visit

JN0305092495 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 3 May 95 pp 1, 19

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee [FRC] in the House of Representatives, has submitted his resignation from the FRC to protest the attitude of the official media—radio, television, and the Jordanian News Agency—toward a statement issued by the FRC on the visit to Jordan by Mrs. Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

In his letter of resignation addressed to the speaker of the house, al-Nusur criticized the Information Ministry's censorship of the FRC statements, which omitted whatever they wanted to omit and completely ignored what they disliked, as he said.

The following is the text of the resignation letter:

His excellency the speaker of the House of Representatives, esteemed FRC members:

In view of the fact that the Information Ministry—radio, television, and the Jordanian News Agency—is censoring the FRC's statement, omitting whatever they want to omit and completely ignoring whatever they dislike and wasting people's time with personal and worthless material;

Because of its disrespect toward the activities of the House of Representatives and its permanent committees, as though the House is not a constitutional body of the state and as though the official media are not part of the state institutions;

Given the fact that cooperation between the house and these media is essential to promote our work and express our views and our people's feelings in a way that serves the policy of the state in a responsible, serious fashion that would express what the official policy cannot express in view of the responsibility this policy involves, and in a way that would support the leader of our country and the crown prince in facing the world and the world powers that monopolize decisionmaking;

And because this cooperation is nonexistent, lacking the means of the needed respect, thus hurting the feelings of the deputies because of the negative attitude of certain official departments, I find myself unable to carry out the decision of the committee which I chair and hereby tender my resignation.

Sincerely, 'Abdallah al-Nusur, FRC chairman.

Agreement Signed on Passage of Goods to PA

TA0205150695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel and Jordan signed an agreement in Elat enabling the passage of goods between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the goods will be hauled through the border crossing along the Jordan River. A special terminal will be built on the site where the cargo will be unloaded from Jordanian trucks and loaded onto vehicles coming from the PA. Israel and Jordan also agreed to look into the possibility of building another bridge at the border crossing along the Jordan River.

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Islamic Jihad, Hizballah Denounce U.S. Policy

NC0305101895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah honored the hero of the Bint Jubayl martyrdom operation, struggler Salah Ghandur, at a massive ceremony in al-Barjawi Mosque in Bi'r Hasan yesterday afternoon, marking the first week since his martyrdom. Official, parliamentary, party, military, religious, and media figures attended the event as well as a crowd of believers, who filled the mosque hall and the surrounding area.

The first speaker was Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine. He stated that the Islamic forces in Lebanon and Palestine achieved a balance of power with the enemy and delivered painful blows to the U.S.-Zionist scheme and to the normalization process with the enemy.

He added that the mujahidin daily assert the defeat of the enemy's scheme and that the mujahidin are a small part of the nation's capabilities. But they also assert that the nation can work miracles when its resources are unified. He denounced the U.S. decision inflicting an economic blockade on the Islamic Republic.

The second speech was delivered by Information Minister Michel Samahah. He said: We have the same will and are one nation on the path to liberate the land and confront Israel and the [words indistinct] plot. He added that Hizballah does not signify intolerance and backwardness, but represents resistance until the rights have been restored. [passage omitted]

The Hizballah secretary general, His Eminence Hasan Nasrallah, delivered the last speech. He said: With martyr Salah we stand before the secret of our strength and the enemies' weakness. The awakening represented by the martyr did not result from poverty. Our problem is caused by the humiliation imposed on us by the United States and Zionism.

He added: With our strength we will pursue our jihad march. He went on: I tell the Israeli who sought to circumvent this martyrdom operation that there are many martyrdom-seeking people in our nation and that we want them to kill and be killed, because their blood will serve the cause. Death for us is a weapon that we do not throw into the air, but direct against the enemy.

Nasrallah said: The Resistance sought to turn Lebanon into a nightmare for the enemy; we must reach a stage where the enemy will be deterred from even contemplating attacks on us, by exhausting him, as in the case of Gaza and the intifadah, which have become a nightmare for the enemy. He reiterated that the battle is open with the enemy and his Agents, noting that the Jazzin residents' refusal to enlist in the Agents' army is a good omen.

His eminence denounced the United States' charges of terrorism against the Islamists and Iran and Clinton's decisions concerning an economic blockade against Iran, asserting that we and Syria stand on Iran's side.

Commenting on the Lebanese presidential election, he said: Disregarding the differences over the issue, we are seeking leaders who feel the pain of their people and are proud of their martyrs and Resistance men. We do not want leaders who overtly and covertly conspire against this people. [passage omitted]

Iranian Envoy: U.S. Embargo Influenced by Israel

NC0305101995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Homayun 'Alizadeh has said that the collapse of U.S. foreign policy, especially in the Middle East, and the lack of a clear U.S. policy have forced the U.S. Administration to export its domestic crises and to appease the international Zionist movement in an attempt to solve its growing domestic problems and to help Clinton and the Democratic Party in the next presidential election.

He added: We can say quite frankly that U.S. policy, at least its Middle Eastern policy as seen in many things that have happened in the peace process, is greatly influenced by the Zionist policy of expansion and domination.

The ambassador's remarks were made during an exclusive interview with our radio on the "Noon Mirror" program. 'Alizadeh said: The first thing that astonished me was the announcement of the decision made against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the threats made against it at the international Jewish conference held in the United States. The party that Clinton wanted to favor is well known.

He added: The U.S. Administration thinks that all countries are open to Clinton's intrusions into their international dealings. The Americans implemented a similar embargo following the Islamic revolution's victory and throughout the war that Iraq imposed on Iran under U.S. directives, but it failed to achieve any of it objectives. Needless to say, the current world situation is quite different now, since economic competition plays a decisive role in international trade and economic ties. We have enough economic and trade partners in various nations.

He added: This limits any impact of the U.S. measure on our strong national decisionmaking and resolve. The future will reveal that Clinton's decision will hurt U.S. interests more than Iranian ones.

The Iranian ambassador added:

[Begin 'Alizadeh recording] [Words indistinct] Iran's opposition to the alleged peace process in the region has this impact, can [words indistinct] capabilities provided by the big powers and others. Is it not better to reconsider the way of dealing with the source of [words indistinct] and this power, that is to say the Islamic Republic of Iran?

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Besides, this peace process, which after more than three years [words indistinct] contributed to increasing the number of Jewish settlers in occupied Palestine, increasing the settlements, and expanding the area of usurped territories. [words indistinct] that claim to seek peace [words indistinct] to confiscate [words indistinct] land in Jerusalem and settle the Jews in it. These measures increasingly strengthen our belief that reason is not what governs [words indistinct]. The current U.S. Administration is willing to sacrifice its decisionmaking and its independent national policy to achieve its domestic desires and support the expansionist Zionist policies in the Middle East. [end recording]

Hizballah Threatens More Suicide Attacks on Israel

NC0305061495 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has threatened Israel with more martyrdom operations against its forces in the south, as he put it.

He said: Join us in preparing for this battle. The Resistance has always sought to make Lebanon a nightmare for Israel and this means we should reach a stage where the Israelis will feel that entering Lebanon is a nightmare.

Clashes, Casualties in South, Western al-Biqa'

NC0205173495 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The military situation in the south has been tense today, with three resistance fighters and three Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army, SLA] members being wounded. Two civilians were also wounded in 'Arab Salim and the western al-Biqa'.

The resistance announced that this morning one of its groups attacked four Israeli Army and Lahd positions in Taw'amat Niha, Kafr Huna, al-Ahmadiyah, and Zummarayya. Security sources in the south say an Israeli military convoy consisting of around 40 men was caught in a Hizballah ambush on al-Jabal al-Rafi' hill. The sources say the convoy was intruding outside the occupied security strip when it was hit by intensive fire from antitank artillery and automatic weapons. The sources say the Islamic Resistance fired around 50 Katyushas and mortar shells at the area. The Lahd forces admitted that they suffered three wounded, one seriously. After that, the Israeli artillery fired over 300 shells on the neighboring villages bordering the occupied region.

At 1230 today, an Amal group detonated an explosive device under a joint Israeli and Lahd forces patrol on the al-Khardali road. Soon afterward clashes ensued in which missiles and artillery shells were used. The attacks were accompanied by Israeli artillery shelling of the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights, which wounded a woman in 'Arab Salim. The Israeli forces also shelled the areas around 'Ayn al-Tinah, Mashgharah, Marj al-Zuhur, Birkat Jabbur, and Abu-Rashid in the western al-Biqa', where one civilian was wounded.

IDF Denies Suffering Casualties

TA0305041795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three or four terrorists were killed at noon yesterday in south Lebanon in a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit. Our forces did not sustain any casualties. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the clash occurred in the northeastern sector of the security zone. An IDF unit operating in the area encountered the terrorists and, in the ensuing exchanges of fire, three or four of them were killed. As said, the IDF unit did not sustain any casualties.

Israeli Helicopters Launch Raid

TA0205183095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1720 GMT 2 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cobra assault helicopters raided terrorist positions in south Lebanon this afternoon following intense artillery shelling by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The shelling came after three SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers were wounded by Hizballah gunfire directed at positions in the eastern sector. Hizballah also fired katyusha rockets at the security zone. Many inhabitants went into air raid shelters or hid in fruit-tree plantations.

Hizballah Radio Details Attacks

NC0305074995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The situation in the south remained tense overnight and into the early hours of this morning as Zionist attacks on the liberated areas continued and the Resistance men retaliated by targeting the al-'Ayshiyah Barracks.

The Islamic Resistance announced that one man was martyred and three mujahidin were wounded in fierce confrontations with the occupation forces in the Jabal al-Rafi' area. Samir 'Alamah has all the details.

[Begin 'Alamah recording in progress] ...which began early yesterday morning and wounded two citizens. The Islamic Resistance continued to defend our peaceful people and retaliated for the attacks by pounding the al-'Ayshiyah Barracks at midnight. Yesterday the Islamic Resistance repulsed two infiltration attempts toward Jabal al-Rafi' and fired on a Zionist soldier at the al-Suwayda' post. This was preceded by a series of successful attacks on four enemy and Agent posts in

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western al-Biqa'. All these attacks inflicted injuries on the enemy and Agent personnel and damaged ramparts and fortifications.

Retaliating for Zionist shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah areas, the Islamic Resistance, at 0045 today, monitored a Zionist assembly in the al-'Ayshiyah Barracks; the fire support unit pounded the assembly, scoring direct hits. [passage omitted]

At noon yesterday, the Islamic Resistance sniper unit targeted a Zionist soldier at the al-Suwayda' post. [passage omitted]

Soon after 2300 yesterday, the army's derelict barracks in al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under 105-mm shellfire originating from a Zionist Merkava tank stationed at the al-Dabshah position. The same post resumed shelling of the barracks and the al-Ghawarinah neighborhood in al-Nabatiyah at about 2330 using 81-mm rounds. [passage omitted]

Security sources inside the occupied strip said six members of the Lahdist militia [South Lebanese Army] were killed in the occupied strip in Resistance attacks in April. [end recording]

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Afghanistan

Government Forces Repel Taleban Attack

LD0205164895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack by the pseudo-Taleban was repulsed yesterday in Ghowr Province. Reports received by BAKHTAR say: The pseudo-Taleban militia mounted an attack on the areas of (?Kandewal) and [word indistinct] in Ghowr Province. They were defeated as a result of the Islamic Army resistance. The report adds: The ulema and clergy of the province declared jihad against the Taleban in a statement, and they were in the forefront of yesterday's clearing-up operation by the mojahedin and the Islamic Army forces. In yesterday's clearing-up operation, which was carried out by the ulema, mojahedin, and the Islamic Army forces, ten militia were killed and eight others were injured, and a number of the rebel pseudo-Taleban have been besieged. Similarly one mojahed by the name of Mulla Hamidollah was martyred and two others were injured.

Commentary Warns of National 'Disintegration'

LD0105164595 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 1 May 95

[Commentary by station political commentator]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful; The present situation of the country is so full of crisis, danger, and pain that nothing similar can be found anywhere else. Foreign interference has reached a new height, fighting has increased and [words indistinct]. The possibility of finding a solution through talks and understanding seems more remote than ever. The fact is that the current fighting in the country has turned it into a scene of foreign [words indistinct] and rivalry; and with each passing day the consequence is that the danger of our country's and nation's disintegration and partition increases. Foreign hands and [words indistinct] fan differences in our country under the names of north and south, Pashtun and Tajik, and majority and minority, and thereby destroy the hope of national unity and the establishment of an Islamic government.

When this fire was ignited by a treacherous conspiracy three years ago, brother Hekmatyar, the faithful and intelligent leader of the Islamic revolution, stood against it and put up resistance, and by various efforts not only prevented the acceleration of the fighting [words indistinct] within the limits of possibility [words indistinct].

If the situation continues as it is now, it is possible that a fearful scene will come about which will destroy our country's and nation's values and endowments and leave nothing but regret. Therefore, it is the responsibility of faithful and patriotic Afghans to abandon indifference and irresponsibility and to take heed of brother Hekmatyar's message, and to embark on work for the salvation of their country.

India

Rao, Leghari Address Resolution to Kashmir Issue

BK0305024895 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Pakistan today agreed that the Kashmir issue should be resolved peacefully. It was also decided that the leadership of the two countries should work toward it at the highest level. This emerged from the bilateral meeting between the Pakistan president, Mr. Farooq Leghari, and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, this evening. The two leaders spoke to newspersons after their meeting.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] How have the talks proceeded, Prime Minister?

[Rao] Very cordial. Very good. We were meeting for the first time, but I feel now that we have met several times.

[Leghari] (?We) both said that although our countries have their respective positions, yet it's important to talk about that and about other issues, and that we should not feel any hesitation in talking about these matters at levels other than normal secretaries or officials level; that this issue needs to be resolved through peaceful means rather than military means, and the prime minister of India said that India wishes it so also. So I hope that leadership at all levels in both India and Pakistan—whether it's political level or it's the level of intellectuals or others—will work toward a peaceful resolution of the problem.

[Unidentified reporter] At what level? Will it be political or foreign secretaries level or what?

[Rao] Well, that's now open for us. I think there is no great barrier, insurmountable barrier to resume the talks, but we have not decided anything specifically on that. We discussed about it and about the possibility of resuming. [end recording]

Daily Cites U.S. 'Meddling,' Pressure on Kashmir

BK0205101195 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 1 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Conspiracy To Corner India on the Kashmir Issue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States seems to be bent upon showing her hooliganism and meddling in the internal affairs of India. Such a situation is being deliberately created to force India to accept the United States as the mediator to solve the Kashmir problem. A variety of offers at a variety of levels in the variety of ways are being made to trap India into accepting U.S. hegemony. Although the various statements made by U.S. President

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Bill Clinton, his Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during Ms Bhutto's recent U.S. visit may apparently look incompatible, internally they seem to be the parts of a well-planned strategy created to make India talk to Pakistan in the manner of the 1965 Tashkent Conference at which India's then Prime Minister, Lal Banadir Shastri, and the then Pakistani president, Gen. Ayub negotiated with the Soviet Union, assuring the mediator's role. The only difference is that this time they want India and Pakistan negotiate with the United States playing the mediator's role.

Those who are rejoicing at the U.S. declaration of Pakistani-occupied Kashmir as disputed territory should carefully study the statement and explanation given by Ms Robin Raphel that, "We (United States) are prepared to mediate on the Kashmir problem, but it is possible only when both India and Pakistan agree. Although Pakistan is agreeable on this proposal, India is not prepared for it. So only from the practical viewpoint we are entitled to play this role provided India agrees. Both countries must get this problem solved through negotiations. The United States also considers occupied Kashmir a disputed territory, but, for that matter, the entire erstwhile Jammu-Kashmir State is still a disputed territory."

Now, whom should we consider truthful, President Clinton or Robin Raphel? Addressing a news conference jointly with Benazir, Bill Clinton declared "the Kashmir problem should be solved by India and Pakistan through direct negotiations, because the United States is unable to intervene in the matter. The United States also deems occupied Kashmir to be a disputed territory. After saying so, Bill Clinton cleared the mist around U.S. intentions by asserting that he "considers stopping the supply of the F-16 bombers to Pakistan or stopping the return of the money against the deal under the Pressler amendment to be wrong." What does he mean by continuously pressuring India to curtail her defense preparations and simultaneously making efforts to resume military aid to Pakistan or resume supply of the bombers? With what intention or for what purpose is the United States trying to give arms and other military aid to Pakistan? Obviously the intention is to corner India from all sides to force it to sit at the table for negotiations with Pakistan under its mediatorship, and all U.S. moves are aimed at trapping India into its deceitful game. We are rejoicing at U.S. declaration that Pakistani occupied Kashmir is also (mark the word "also") a disputed territory. It clearly means that the United States does not deem Kashmir to be India's integral part either geographically or culturally. It also means it does not accept Kashmir's merger with India at the political level, either. That is why Ms. Robin Raphel, in her explanation, has spoken about the controversy over the entire erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state and added that if there were talks, they would be held on the future of and the dispute over the entire Kashmir.

There is no need to elaborate on Benazir's happiness at the proposed U.S. mediator role to settle the Kashmir dispute, for its is an outcome of the well-planned conspiracy hatched by Bill Clinton and Benazir in tandem. Their deceitful intention is to make the entire Kashmir a disputed territory and force India to talk with Pakistan on the issue with the United States indirectly holding the final decision in its exclusive control. Many a time clear indication was given by the United States that it wanted Kashmir to emerge as a sovereign state, independent of either India's or Pakistan's hold. The United States stated umpteen times that it wanted Kashmir to emerge, like "Switzerland," as a sovereign state between India and Pakistan. Whenever we hear about Kashmir being compared with "Switzerland" we become immediately happy in our monumental ignorance. It is high time we saw through this deceitful U.S. move. Its intention is not concealed, but clear that it wants to set up a military base in Kashmir to keep a vigilant and effective eye on Russia, China, and Pakistan. It will be possible only when the United States is able to mediate between India and Pakistan and lure them with lasting solution to the dispute and becoming a permanent power on the borders of the two countries, as well as declaring Kashmir an autonomous region by separating it from the two countries. When Ziaul Haq was Pakistan's president, he proposed a "no-war pact" to dupe India and eat into its territory secretly. His intention was to start this process and wait for the right opportunity to force India into accepting the new border line created by his these clandestine operations. However, without getting overawed by the apparent glare of this "noble no-war pact," India prudently refused it point blank and saved itself from landing in very serious trouble.

Meanwhile, newspapers have published some articles and commentaries on the oral accord reached between Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto on the 'Line of Actual Control' at the time of signing the Simla Agreement. They say that Mr Bhutto and Mrs Indira Gandhi had agreed about deeming the then line of actual control to be the real border line between India and Pakistan. Bhutto had reportedly assured Mrs Gandhi that soon he would implement this unwritten agreement between them, but due to certain limitations he was helpless to make this agreement a part of the written accord. Unfortunately, the mistakes that Jawaharlal Nehru committed while accepting some conditions to render Kashmir a disputed territory were also repeated by his daughter, Mrs Indira Gandhi. While accepting the partition of India, the real border line between India and Pakistan, which was agreed upon by the Congress, Nehru, and Lord Mountbatten, according to the conditions specified then, was and is indubitably the line of actual control. The existing line of actual control was not the line of actual control at the time of the partition. The existing so-called line of actual control is an outcome of the then attack by Pakistan, the war, and the eventual cease-fire between India and Pakistan. The existing line of actual control demands the removal of the Indian territory from the hold of the aggressor, that is Pakistan. If the countries of the world, including the United States,

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genuinely desire peace between India and Pakistan. They must first declare Pakistan to be the aggressor and force it to surrender the Indian land in its illegal possession, now known as Pakistani-occupied Kashmir, which it happened to acquire because Nehru suddenly declared a unilateral cease-fire and which is still a disputed territory. Instead of declaring only Pakistani-occupied Kashmir to be a disputed territory the U.S. policy of declaring the entire erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State to be disputed indirectly strengthens Pakistan's claim over it and not India's stand on the issue.

This fact is neither very old nor part of the ancient history to create much problem in its real assessment. Not even 50 years have elapsed since the partition of India, accepted mainly to get rid of the British rule. With the creation of Pakistan, directly and indirectly the Army of Pakistan attacked Kashmir. The Indian Army's determined retaliation began to rout the aggressor, and the Indian soldiers would have triumphantly thrown the aggressor out in just a few more hours had Nehru not declared the unilateral cease-fire. If he had not declared the cease-fire there would have been no dispute regarding Kashmir or the line of actual control. The confusion was further confounded by Nehru's declaration of accepting the proposal of holding a plebiscite in Kashmir and internationalizing the Kashmir problem by accepting UN intervention to resolve it.

Unfortunately, India has played a greater role in creating the Kashmir crisis than Pakistan has. This "stick of the Kashmir-dispute" to beat India with has been given to Pakistan by India itself and by no one else.

The impression of Kashmir being a foreign territory and not part of India was given by Nehru himself by not letting it be a part of the Home Ministry under Sardar Patel's command and retaining it under the Foreign Ministry in his own control. This is how he further emphasized the dispute. Had Nehru not committed such blunders the Indian Army would have indisputably drawn the line of actual control between India and Pakistan only then. Now this dispute has been bloated so much as to make it a convenient pawn in the games of the international politics and diplomacy. Now, the efforts are on to settle it in such a way as to arrive at the final solution eventually favoring Pakistan. The United Nations, the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, and other countries do condemn the carnage and violence being committed by Pakistani terrorists in Kashmir and acknowledge the training being imparted by Pakistan to the terrorists. They also know that by unleashing a reign of terror in Indian Kashmir, Pakistan is fanning the fire of unrest there. However, they neither declare Pakistan a terrorist state nor do they impose economic and political sanctions on it. On the contrary, they all seem to be vying with each other to grant the latest weapons, liberal financial aid, and even political honor to Pakistan. Clearly the U.S. sympathy lies with Pakistan and not with India. This superpower tries every ruse and stratagem to see that Pakistan outweighs India in every field to keep India not only under a security check but in economic fetters, too. The U.S. and Pakistani intentions are to bloat the Kashmir crisis to such macabre proportions as would break India's morale and force her to seek asylum before the United States to eventually, surrender before Pakistan. Benazir Bhutto's statement that, "since much is at stake in South Asia, India should accept the United States as the mediator to settle the Kashmir dispute" is very much a part of this deep-rooted conspiracy against India.

Although the U.S. public media are building the atmosphere to prove Benazir's U.S. visit to be an utter failure and saying that she had to return empty-handed, the reality behind this publicity veil does not support this propaganda. This visit gave a shot in the arm to Pakistan's nuclear proliferation program and brought Mr. Clinton much closer to Pakistan than before. By seeking direct U.S. help or through offering the mediator's role, Benazir wants to settle her score with India for the creation of Bangladesh in 1971 and hence the fragmentation of Pakistan, for which she holds India responsible. It will be possible to grasp the true intentions of the United States and Pakistan only when the Kashmir dispute, terrorism, and the drive for U.S. mediation is perceived, studied, and analyzed in the same perspective.

Election Commission Seeks Report on Kashmir

BK0205155395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Election Commission has asked for a report from the center on the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir before announcing the poll schedule for the state. In a communication to the center, the commission said the number of security forces and polling personnel required and issues like spread of the polling days will depend entirely on the prevailing law and order situation in the state.

Meanwhile, 19 militants, a sub-inspector of police, the headmaster of a high school have been killed in the state during the last 24 hours. An official spokesman said 15 militants were killed in Kupwara and two each in Kulgam and Anantnag. Various organizations and political parties have condemned this morning's bomb blasts in two different places of worship in Jammu. Six persons were injured in the explosions.

The UN high commissioner for human rights, Mr. Jose Ayala Lasso, is now in Srinagar for an on-the-spot study of the situation there. During his two-day stay, he will visit some areas in the valley and meet officials and leaders of political parties. Mr. Lasso visited the Border Security Forces armed museum where he was showed sophisticated weapons seized from militants.

U.S. Criticized for Investigation on Child Labor

BK0305120595 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 16 Apr 95 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE US Labor Department's move to investigate instances of child labour in agriculture, trade and industry in Asia, Africa and Latin

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America is a deep-rooted conspiracy to torpedo Third World exports to the US and its allies among the developed nations, alleges Swami Agnivesh, chairperson of the UN Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

Agnivesh, who is also the founder-chairman of the Bandhua Mukti Morcha (BMM), has launched a committed crusade against bonded and child labour. But, he says, "he has strong reasons to oppose the US initiative on child labour".

According to him, "The US government's objective is to collect information on child labour in various countries and use it as a weapon to ban imports. Once that happens, the US and its allies will flood the world market with their goods."

"It is nothing but another version of the US lobby's prolonged pressure on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to incorporate a social clause of their liking in the GATT agreement," he added.

In his reply to a letter from the director of the US Labor Department, Ms Sonia A Rosen, Agnivesh desired that the US government first clarify its stand on the large-scale and forced employment of child labour by the vineyard-owners of California as well as in various other occupations.

"Will the Labor Department allow Indian NGOs [non-governmental organizations] to enter a vineyard to obtain first-hand information on the child labour employed there?" queries Agnivesh.

Further, he wants the Clinton administration to make public its stand on the allegations of gross and blatant human rights violations in the US, which have been levelled by none less than the UN Committee on Human Rights in its latest report, published earlier this week.

Agnivesh points out: "Similar allegations were levelled against the US community in the 'International Conference on Rethinking Human Rights' held in Kuala Lumpur on December 6-7 last."

The US government has so far not reacted even to the specific instances of human right violations cited by the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches in the US.

Agnivesh regrets having cooperated with the US labor Department in conducting the first investigation on child labour last year. It was later found that the information on child labour furnished by the BMM and other Third World NGOs was misused by the US government.

He refers to the report of the US Senate Committee, appended to last year's circular from the US Labor Department, which was faxed to Third World NGOs. The report states that "many products made by child labour are being imported into the US", suggesting that if the import of these goods were banned, US industries could benefit.

The US Senate Committee very skillfully avoided referring to the large-scale exploitation of child labour in the US and in the rest of the developed world.

Agnivesh wants the Clinton administration to explain its failure to cooperate with the UN Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. The US President, he points out, has not cared to respond to the UN secretary-general on the subject.

Commentary Views SAARC History, Progress

BK0205045895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 May 95

[Commentary by M. Chakravarti]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The New Delhi summit marks 10 years of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. The first SAARC summit was held in the Bangladesh capital, Dhaka, in December 1985 in which the association was formed. Hailing the new regional organization as the beginning of a new dawn, the then Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, said that SAARC points the way to collective self-reliance in order to overcome problems of poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, and disease in South Asia. SAARC has seven member states namely Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, and Maldives. The charter of SAARC provides annual meetings of the heads of states and governments and six monthly meetings of SAARC council of ministers which is its highest policy making body.

The second SAARC summit was held in New Delhi in 1986. The third SAARC summit was held at Kathmandu in November 1987 and it adopted a convention for regional cooperation on suppression of terrorism. Only Pakistan and Bangladesh have yet to enact necessary legislation in this connection. The fourth SAARC summit was held in Islamabad. The seventh summit was held in Dhaka last year where the idea of SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement] was conceived. A permanent secretariat of the SAARC is at Kathmandu.

The SAARC foreign ministers at their 15th session over the past two days in Delhi have already given flesh and bone to the proposal of the creation of SAPTA and the prospects have brightened for SAPTA taking off the ground by the end of this year. The SAARC foreign ministers have begun to look ahead of SAPTA toward the creation of a South Asian free trade area. It will inevitably take some time to deal with its nitty-gritty. But the fact of the foreign ministers welcoming the idea reflects the awareness of the SAARC governments that borderless trade and a common market are in the interest of them all. Awareness of the importance of multilateral cooperation is also reflected in the SAARC foreign ministers' decision to take steps for cooperation with other regional economic blocks such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—ASEAN—and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation—APEC. An agreement is also being signed with

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the European Union. The group adopted a united stand at the earth summit at Rio, the population summit in Cairo, and social development summit at Copenhagen.

Some critics say that SAARC cannot be as effective as other regional groups like the European Union and ASEAN because of interregional differences. But it should not be forgotten that it took the European Union 50 years to come to the present shape. Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao will take over chairmanship of the SAARC from Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at today's session. It is the second time India is assuming the leadership of the organization.

Iran

Official Reaction, Commentary to U.S. Sanctions

Rafsanjani on 'False Allegations'

LD0205173595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Referring to the U.S. recent plot to bring pressure to bear on the revolutionary people of Iran, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said today: Our most important crime in the U.S. view is our independence. With excuses and false allegations, such as support for terrorism or possession of nuclear weapons, by imposing bullying and extortionate policies even on powerful countries, the United States tries to rule in the so-called new world order.

Speaking at a meeting with model university lecturers, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The U.S. Government knows that, in the present circumstances, and considering the constructive power and scientific and technical capabilities of Iran, our country is not worried about sanctions, and in a world that desperately needs fuel and energy Iran cannot be driven out of the global oil market.

The president said that infrastructural advances in the first development plan and the stability and robustness of the economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran are effective and important factors in defeating U.S. conspiracies and moves against Iran.

He said: By implementing fundamental and long-term policies to reduce and sever the dependence of the country's economy on oil, the government has succeeded in making good use of God-given reserves and facilities to provide raw materials for factories and manufacturing and industrial centers, and in replacing oil as the national source of income. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i 'Deeply Happy' With Ban

LD0305101595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A large number of workers, teachers, lecturers, and academics met this morning with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, at the Imam Khomeyni hoseyniyeh [prayer center]. [passage omitted]

At the meeting, the great leader of revolution made an address in which he referred to U.S. propaganda uproar on imposing sanctions against Islamic Iran. He added: The Iranian nation and all the country's officials are deeply happy and pleased about the U.S. action. Because as a result of the sanctions and restrictions which were imposed on Iran in the past, the Muslim and inventive forces of the country achieved huge progress. This new action by the U.S. government will increase the spirit of work, happiness, effort, and production among the revolutionary people of Iran.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the claims made by the United States about the production of nuclear weapons in Iran as an obvious and false accusation. He added: The countries of the world do not follow the U.S. anti-Iran policies, and this is at a time when within Iran too the high-ranking officials of the country and the general public are standing up to the United States with high morale and firm fists, and with power and firmness. No nation would be able to overcome this powerful nation and the firm resolve of its officials. [passage omitted]

Deputy Foreign Minister Comments

LD0205171695 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—A senior Iranian official commented on President Bill Clinton's lastest anti-Iran move, saying "it's not something new as we have been witnessing U.S. economic sanctions and sabotage during the last 15 years."

Deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs Mahmud Va'ezi in an interview with the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, printed Tuesday [2 May], said: "The United States and not the Islamic republic will be the loser through President Clinton's anti-Iran moves in the economic arena."

Iran's imports from the United States directly or indirectly an estimated [number indistinct] million dollars last year, he said, adding that the U.S. ban on its exports to Iran would have no adverse impact as not a single [word indistinct] was strategically important.

Va'ezi further remarked: "All transactions with the United States were carried out on the basis of an open market trading system."

Iran imported American goods from the open market because they were cheaper and Iran had better transport facilities to bring them home, he added.

Everybody knows that Iran's import from the United States is comparatively insignificant, the deputy foreign minister said.

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Concerning Iranian exports to the United States, Va'ezi commented that during the past few years, Southeast Asian and European-based companies bought Iranian oil from the open market and economic observers believe that U.S. companies earned considerable profits through the lucrative Iranian business.

"Right now, the international energy market is quite good as crude oil is being sold four U.S. dollars more per barrel compared to the same period last year," he remarked.

He added that Iran has no problem on oil deals because the Petroleum Ministry of Iran has recently announced that several proposals for oil deals involving other countries are on the table.

Iranian officials believe that Clinton pays more attention to Zionist interests compared to the interest of his own nation, he further added.

"Clinton is one of the least competent foreign policy leaders in the 20th century," said former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney in a recent statement, and Clinton's [word indistinct] proved what Cheney and others believe.

The U.S. President is presently facing a series of problems at home and whose difficulties were aggravated after the democrats experienced a crushing defeat in the last congressional elections.

"By making baseless charges against Iran in the Zionist gathering, Clinton was trying to please the racists," Va'ezi pointed out.

Radio: 'Iran Will Not Be The Loser'

LD0205123295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 2 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following the recent speech made by President Clinton regarding a full scale economic sanction against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Warren Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state, also in similar remarks, described the sanctions intended against Iran as the most severe one in the world. [sentence as heard]

The U.S. secretary of state, on Monday [1 May] addressing reporters, said: The U.S. will use all its resources to control for, what he described as, controlling Iran. Undoubtedly talking about sanctions against a nation, which has successfully left behind hard years of imposed war and experienced the reconstruction period as well as successfully implementing its first five-year economic development plan, is nothing but twaddles. [sentence as heard]

Mr. Clinton and his administration, more than anyone else, know that Iran will not be the loser in this political game and in this war of propaganda campaign against a nation with strong, ancient, cultural roots and rich economic resources. The real losers of this campaign are in fact the American capitalists and companies, which have always strived to outpace their European rivals in expanding economic and trade relations with Iran.

Mr. Clinton's decision contributes to the emergence of conflict among American government officials, also aggravating political differences among the U.S. European allies. Even the British government, as an old traditional ally of the United States, has voiced its open opposition to the implementation of embargoes against Iran.

Anyhow there is no doubt that Mr. Clinton, within the framework of competitions in the forthcoming presidential elections, has turned the U.S. political arena into the scene of activities defending the Zionists. These moves, however, have not the slightest impact on changing Iran's stand against the U.S. aggressive measures in the international arena. As put by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today Iran by relying on its own human and economic resources is not an arena for the new U.S. adventurism. Iran is ready to put an end to its economic relations with the U.S. at any time suitable, while at the same time completing its reconstruction projects with full might.

U.S. 'Hasty Step' Repeating History

MM0305092395 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 May 95 p 11

[Editorial: "U.S. Strike Against Iran Approaching"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has imposed a full trade embargo on Iran on charges of supporting international terrorism. The Iranian Government considers this step a declaration of war and has thus begun to prepare itself for it.

The U.S. decision announced by President Clinton on the platform of the World Jewish Congress bans U.S. companies from dealing with Tehran at all, and it also bans the import of $2 billion worth of oil, its derivatives, and other material—which without doubt will be a blow to the already exhausted Iranian economy, but not a fatal one.

Iran can find alternative companies to offer the same services offered by U.S. companies. In this context it can be pointed out that companies in states such as Japan, North Korea, China, Russia, and France are looking for trade opportunities in the Gulf. These opportunities declined recently as a result of U.S. domination.

It seems that the United States, which thought carefully about all the Iranian options before embarking on the embargo, is seeking a stronger commitment from the European states and Japan that they are going to back it in imposing maximum sanctions on Iran to force it to become obedient and to stop its nuclear programs. But

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there is nothing to indicate that there is such a commitment, at least from Japan and Russia.

The United States resorted to this hasty step only after its economic and political pressures failed to persuade the Kremlin to stop supplying Iran with nuclear expertise. However, the possibility of the embargo succeeding in achieving its objectives is in doubt. Otherwise, it would have succeeded in the cases of Iraq, Libya, and North Korea; let alone Cuba, which has been under siege for 30 years.

The certain thing is that there is truth in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard commander's accusation that the U.S. Administration is preparing to wage a war against Iran. Because the dual containment policy pursued by this administration against Iraq and Iran does not stop at embargoes. It also includes the destruction of the two countries' military and economic capabilities. So what happened to Iraq using the pretext of the invasion of Kuwait can also happen to Iran using the pretext that it is attempting to possess nuclear weapons and is implicated in supporting world terrorism.

It might be useful to recall the statements attributed to U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry during his recent Gulf tour. He warned of Iran's threat to international shipping in the Gulf and its deployment of missiles and mass-destruction weapons on Abu Musa island in the Strait of Hormuz. These early statements would not have been made had there been no prior U.S. plan to launch a strike against Iran to weaken the current regime and to end its regional military superiority, which poses a threat to U.S. hegemony in the region.

If the U.S. Government needed a few weeks to dispatch its forces and warships to the Arabian Peninsula in preparation for hitting Iraq early in 1991, it will not be the same situation if it decides to hit Iran. Because the U.S. forces dispatched to Kuwait and the peninsula on the pretext of confronting two divisions which Iraq moved toward the Kuwaiti border 18 months ago are still there, supported by more than a mere two U.S. aircraft carriers and 40 warships, which are roaming Gulf waters. These are in addition to tens of tonnes of arms and ammunition stockpiled at permanent bases since the end of the second Gulf war.

We cannot authoritatively assert how accurate the U.S. strategic calculations vis-a-vis Iran are. However, what we do know is that any U.S. military or economic implication could prove extremely costly for the United States and its President. Iran toppled Jimmy Carter's Democratic administration and brought the Republicans to power, and in circumstances similar to present circumstances. And history is repeating itself, but in a more tragic way this time.

Nuclear Energy Head Rejects U.S. Accusation

LD0205204195 Tehran IRNA in English 1952 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, May 2, IRNA—The head of Iran's nuclear energy organization, Reza Amrollahi, says the United States is against Islam, and especially against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In an interview Tuesday [2 May] with Swiss daily "NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG" Amrollahi further stressed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report in which its experts reject U.S. accusation of Iran's intention to built nuclear weapons.

He added that Iran plans to produce 20 percent of its electricity consumption from nuclear sources in 20 years.

Referring to U.S. comments that Iran does not need nuclear energy because of its massive oil reserves, Amrollahi noted that the United States has also large reserves but it too relies on nuclear energy to a large extent.

The head of Iran's nuclear energy organization criticized the U.S. for its double-standards and emphasized that Iran has for the past 15 years called for a nuclear-free zone in the region. He also called on the U.S. to exercise pressure on Israel and force it to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Amrollahi also called U.S. policies a threat not only to the region but also to Egypt and Syria.

Israel Claims Government Received DPRK Missiles

MS0205091895 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 2 May 95 p 10

[Report by Adel Darwish: "Tehran Missiles 'Can Reach Israel'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran has acquired North Korean ballistic missiles that could reach cities in Israel, according to Israeli and Western sources.

An unspecified number—believed to be in double figures of the missiles known as Rodong-1 (pronounced "Nodong"), were delivered to the Islamic Republic early this year, according to an Israeli intelligence report. Also known in the west as Scud-D, the Rodong has a range of 1,500km (900 miles), capable of reaching all of Israel with the exception of Eilat in the far south.

The Israelis complain that several European countries are attempting to cast doubts on the missile deliveries. "Continental European governments are too busy trading with Iran to notice our reports," an Israeli diplomat said. "The Europeans believe they can nudge President Rafsanjani into moderation as they lend Iran money and, in the case of Germany, cooperate on intelligence and security matters."

But the Israelis say that Iran, with the help of Libya, has acquired the technology to equip the Rodong with conventional warheads with four times the destructive power of the Scud-B missiles used during the Gulf war. More than 200 Scud-Bs have already been sold by the North Koreans to Iran.

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The Iranians deny the claims and accuse the Israelis, the Americans and the British of conducting a propaganda war against the Islamic Republic. The Israelis insist that Iran has acquired at least a dozen Rodongs.

DPRK Envoy Rejects 'Propaganda'

LD0105064795 Tehran IRNA in English 0623 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—A North Korean diplomat here Sunday [30 April] rejected recent allegations by a British weekly on the delivery of 'Rodong-1' [Nodong] missiles to Iran by Pyongyang.

Talking to the daily 'IRAN', the cultural attache of the North Korean Embassy to Tehran said officials of his country would no longer pay any attention to such baseless propaganda.

The London-based weekly 'FOREIGN REPORT' last week claimed that North Korea had sold and delivered to Iran an unknown number of Rodong-1 missiles.

He referred to the foreign report's allegations as "repeated allegations of Western countries and Zionist circles" aimed at exerting pressures on the independent governments of Tehran and Pyongyang.

He stressed that Pyongyong never expected the Zionist circles anything more than dissemination of such fabrications, adding that his country was used to the propaganda ballyhoo of Western media.

Sri Lankan Parliamentary Speaker, Ministers Visit

Speaker Praises Ties on Arrival

LD3004091695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sri Lankan parliamentary speaker K.B. Ratnayake and a delegation comprising several cabinet ministers arrived in Tehran this morning and was welcomed by Mr. Akrami, head of the Iran-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group, and several Islamic Consultative Majles deputies.

In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, the Sri Lankan parliamentary speaker said on his arrival: This visit is at the invitation of the Majles speaker. Mr. Ratnayake described the two countries' relations as very good and friendly and the Parliamentary Friendship Association as important for the expansion of ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sri Lanka.

He expressed the hope that his visit results in further expansion of two countries relations in the political, economic, cultural, and social fields.

Nateq-Nuri Meets With Speaker

LD3004132195 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here on Sunday [30 April] that Iran and Sri Lanka as two members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) can play an active role in NAM through expansion of cooperation.

In a meeting with Sri Lankan speaker of Parliament, K.B. Ratnayake, Nateq-Nuri called for preparing the grounds for parliamentary friendship between the two countries.

Ratnayake said that expansion of relations between Iran and Sri Lanka would serve the interests of both nations.

He also briefed his Iranian counterpart on the developments in his country and said foreign hands in Sri Lanka are not willing to see peace and security restored to the country.

He said that fighting between Tamil tigers and Sinhalese have led Sri Lanka to a state of chaos and the government has made every efforts to establish peace in the country.

Rafsanjani, Velayati Receive Speaker

LD0105114995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the visiting Speaker of Sri Lanka's parliament, Mr. Ratnayake, today.

During this meeting Mr. Ratnayake described the gains of the Islamic revolution and the progress of the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields as remarkable and said: We hope to overcome our problems through cooperation with developing countries like Iran. He added: During this visit I was impressed by the transformation in Iran. And the effective role played by the leadership and the country's executive managers to achieve these gains is quite clear. The Iranian people's self-sacrifice and their support for the leadership is a suitable example for the people of Sri Lanka.

Referring to the Iran-Sri Lanka ties, which have always remained friendly, Mr. Ratnayake conveyed the gratitude of his government and the nation for the support and assistance given by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the people of Sri Lanka.

In return President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described Iran and Sri Lanka as two friendly states in the region and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has been very successful in the political and economic fields; and Sri Lanka can use our experience to overcome its internal difficulties.

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The president stressed the need for increasing cooperation between the two countries' parliaments and welcomed the expansion of ties between Iran and Sri Lanka.

At a separate meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati this morning, Mr. Ratnayake discussed the expansion of bilateral cooperation at regional and international levels. He stressed that his country is eager to expand regional cooperation, particularly with the Central Asian countries through Iran.

Delegation Concludes 'Useful' Visit

LD0305121595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. K.B. Ratnayake, the speaker of the Sri Lankan parliament, and his accompanying delegation left Tehran today at the end of his three-day visit to our country. He was officially seen off by Mr. Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Majles.

Before leaving Tehran, the speaker of the Sri Lankan parliament was interviewed by our correspondent, and described the results of his visit to Iran as very useful. Expressing satisfaction over his talks with our country's officials, he hoped for expansion of ties between the two countries. He said that with its historic cultural background, the Islamic Republic of Iran could become a desirable model for the countries in the region.

The speaker of the Islamic Majles also stressed the importance of the active role played by that country in the Nonaligned Movement and said: The common stands by Iran and Sri Lanka could be a determining factor in the international community.

Rafsanjani's 'Second' Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2804145395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 95

["Second" Friday prayers sermon by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered in Tehran on 28 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the Name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

I wish to start this sermon by commemorating some coming special occasions. [passage omitted]

One of the important occasions is the anniversary of the Tabas [attempted rescue of U.S. hostages] incident which was, in fact, last week. Of course, I could have talked about the anniversary in my previous sermon, but I decided to include it among the week's occasions and anniversaries.

We should certainly not allow the Tabas incident to be forgotten. This was indeed a strange event. It was something like the victory of Islam in the Badr Battle [Prophet Muhammad's small army defeating the large army of his enemies] and other wars in which victory is achieved with help from God's angels or the world of the spirit. We should never allow our nation to forget this important point. Our artists and writers should preserve this incident in their stories, poems, and pictures as an important turning point.

The reason that this year I am placing more emphasis on the incident is that the Americans are now in precisely the same situation they were in when the Tabas incident occurred. At that time the Democrats were in power and Mr. Carter made all the decisions. Today, the same party is in power, albeit with a new decision-maker. On that particular day, they made a simplistic decision which caused them a lot of embarrassment. Today, too, they have again made another simplistic decision which is going to embarrass them once again.

However, God wants to preserve our people. We cannot in anyway whatsoever attribute to ourselves what happened in the Tabas incident. At that time, Iran had not yet managed to be in control of its radar equipment, which was built by the Americans. Worse still, it was the Americans who designed and installed the country's entire radar network. Moreover, when the revolution happened, they had not yet installed the radar equipment they had recently brought into Iran. During the course of the war, we managed to make some of this equipment operational. But still some of it remained nonoperational.

The Americans therefore knew that Iran did not enjoy radar protection, and moreover they were well aware of our radar system's blind spots, since they had designed it themselves. Also, they had eyes and ears working for them in Iran. So they chose a route through which, as they imagined, their helicopters and planes could reach the nest of spies [U.S. Embassy in Tehran] and take them [the hostages] away.

However, God preserved us in a very strange way. This was indeed the crystallization of the Koranic story of Abraheh, his elephants, and his attack on Mecca. Because of our lack of radar protection, we were not even aware of what was happening, let alone able to take defensive measures. Our army had not yet been reorganized after all the changes and purges. Our Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, moreover, had not yet been formed.

However, God chose to paralyze them in that arid desert and destroyed them in that way. According to someone's memoirs published in the United States, Mr. Carter was very depressed for a while after that incident and he hardly ever smiled. However, one day we saw him come out of his office with a smile on his face. We asked him the reason, and he said: After a long time of trying to find the weak point in the Tabas rescue mission plan, today we realized that there was not a single weak point in the plan, and that everything was planned properly. For this reason I feel that the sadness has left me and I am happy with myself again because I was the one who formulated and directed the plan.

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However, there is one point that Mr. Carter failed to realize. Had he realized this point, he would have cried and not laughed. The point is that if the plan was right and proper and yet it still failed, then you should look for a different factor or reason. In other words, you should look for the most important factor, which you seem to have missed. This factor is that you are showing hostility to a divine and popular revolution which deserves support and backing. You call yourselves the Democratic Party, which supposedly relies on the votes of the people. Where in the world can you find more popular votes of support [for the revolution or the state] than in Iran?

You support countries which have never witnessed an election and do not have a parliament. Yet you still call yourselves democrats.

You should cry over the fact that your government has gone to war against a nation which with empty hands and only the cry God is Great staged a victorious revolution against an army armed to its teeth; a nation which you seek to suppress just because it has managed to regain its rights. [crowd chants in support of Islam and the revolution and condemning United States and Israel]

Let me tell you that this time, too, the issue is exactly the same. At that time you were embarrassed in Tabas, but now you are going to suffer embarrassment on the world stage. This time, you have started a move which you imagine will isolate Iran. The Iran of the post five-year plan cannot in any way be embargoed. Your information is obviously not enough. You should see for yourself what Iran is like today. You should see for yourself that Iran can no longer be paralyzed by means of sanctions and embargoes. You should see the Iran which is self-sufficient in its food supplies, in all its industries—including the oil, gas, petrochemical, military, mines, and steel sectors—in agriculture, construction, and raw materials, and an Iran which has no foreign advisors among its manpower.

How do you propose to embargo this country? Even if you close all the gates and doors to this country, it can still manage by its domestic resources.

What I want to say is that you cannot undermine a land like Iran which is the center of the world today. You are only depriving yourselves of a place which is so valuable and a place where everyone wants to be. You are giving a free hand to your rivals, and this is exactly what you have done.

There are internal problems there [in the United States]. We know this and understand this. There are two powerful parties at each others' throats and they are creating these problems for themselves.

God is with us. At the advent of the revolution, God gave victory to the revolution by creating fear in the hearts of the enemies. So far, God has kept this fear in the hearts of the enemies, thereby preventing them from harming this revolution. And the future is the same. As long as the people serve the revolution, they will have God's help, with even more resources. We had fewer resources before, today we have more resources at our disposal. And if one day we stop following the line of the revolution and the imam, then the revolution will be there for the United States and its ilk to come and suppress it. We shall have God until we follow this line and God will not allow good human beings who carry out their duties to be crushed under the feet of other powers. [passage omitted]

Bank's Role in Bushehr Company Production Unit

95LA0162G Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Feb 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Bushehr—After the industrial resins unit of the Bushehr Industrial Chemicals Company was put into operation during the divine Ten Days of Dawn Celebration, the members of the board of directors and the executive director of the Bushehr Province Export Bank, Mr Sajadi, Mr Reza'i, Mr Arjmandmanesh, and Mr Fakhrara, along with an accompanying delegation, inspected the important parts of this industrial unit and gained first-hand familiarity with the progress that has been made, the nature of the production line, and also the efforts that have been made by this company's officials and specialists.

At the end of this inspection we had an opportunity to speak with this factory's director, Engineer Sadeqi. We asked him: As you know, from the beginning the province export bank has cooperated directly with the company's officials to start up this producing unit. At the same time, how extensive has this cooperation been, and how do you really assess the Export Bank's role in the growth and development of industrial centers and the province's producing units?

In answer he said: The role of the banks in creating producing units and industrial centers is always a key and undeniable role. Fortunately, in this deprived province the Export Bank, and especially the Bushehr Export Bank, is one of the banks that has taken and takes an active approach to this issue. It may be stated with confidence that it has revived industry in this province, has given the light of hope to worried hearts and has created and made to flourish the motivation to work and make effort among those interested in industry.

He added: I am not saying this to exaggerate or because the bank has cooperated with this company. The reality that we are seeing today throughout the province is exactly this. Eng Sadeqi discussed the fact that the Bushehr Export Bank has cooperated closely with this company's officials since the beginning of the factory's construction, and continues to do so. He gave a brief history of this producing unit. He said: The Bushehr Chemical Industries Company was built and put into operation in this part of the country under the auspices of the Province General Office of Industries and with investment and support by the Bushehr Export Bank.

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He added: If at that time the officials of the province export bank had not extended the hand of support and paved the way, this great industrial unit might never have been built in this deprived region.

He said that during these 10 years the province export bank has spared no effort in promoting prosperity and creativity, and in developing this factory. He said: The sincere empathy and cooperation from the officials of the province export bank has always been very valuable encouragement and support in continuing the life of this industrial unit.

He added: It is in the context of this very support that through the grace of God in the 17th springtime of freedom we are again seeing this great industrial unit flourish and develop during this blessed Ten Days Dawn Celebration. It is a unit that is considered to be the nation's largest maker of industrial resins.

Continuing, he praised and thanked the officials of the province, the office of the governor-general of Bushehr, the management of the province export bank and the general manage of the province offiee of industries, who took very positive steps in starting, designing and developing this industrial unit.

He discussed this factory's products. He said: Currently the Bushehr Chemical Industries Company's producing unit produces 2,000 tons of industrial paints annually and is one of Iran's two producers of complete ocean paint systems. These ocean paints are used not only on ships, but on all parts that are subject to harsh exposure.

Eng Sadeqi added: All shoreline metal structures such as factories, bridges, silos, water storage tanks, and other non-ferrous metal structures (aluminum) and non-metallic structures such as concrete (used to make sea walls on ocean shores) are protected by ocean paints.

He emphasized that Bushehr Chemical Industries was established to produce the paints and resins used in various industries and to prevent imports of the aforementioned products. He noted: The construction paints produced at this unit have the Iranian seal of standards. Likewise the other products produced (industrial and ocean) at the above unit are produced according to the international SSPC'ASTM and NACE [expansions not given] standards, and its products are marketed under the trade name Kahar.

He was asked what measures are taken to adhere to standards. He answered: Quality control is done by experienced specialists on raw materials, the final product and the production cycle, in a laboratory equipped with advanced equipment. The Bushehr Chemical Industries Company, with specialists and engineers experienced in the area of paints and resins and with high technical knowledge and productive ability, is able to provide various types of paints and coatings for refining, ocean activity, power plants, drilling platforms, metal docks, paper manufacture, purification of water and industrial sewage, concrete paints (dams, bridges, buildings), silos, plastic industries, wood, building paints, traffic signs and lacquer for three-centimeter bricks, and mosaic tiles.

The director of the Bushehr Chemical Factory listed some of the major products from this factory, including glossy and flat oil-based paints, plastics, rust preventers, zinc chromate and phosphate, zinc powder, historic lead oxide, extracted iron oxide, industrial paints, rubber chloride furnace paint, epoxy, vinyl, metallic, fireproof paint, and various types of thinner.

With regard to the ocean paints the factory produces, he said: The ocean paint products include bitumen (tar) deck paints, non-running vinyl, vinyl, primer, red lead, wash primer, zinc chromate epoxy, zinc phosphate epoxy, ametryne and miani [as published] epoxy.

He discussed the fact that at the alkyd resin unit 9,000 tons of alkyd resin, which is used in the paint manufacturing industry, is produced. He said: This company's 25,000-ton industrial resins factory was inaugurated and put into operation during the divine and blessed Ten Days Dawn Celebration at ceremonies attended by Deputy Industries Minister Dr Jamshidi, Governor General Nadimi-Bushehri, and other province officials. It was built and put into operation at a foreign exchange cost of close to $1 million and with a fixed investment of 5 billion rials, with the cooperation and aid of province officials and credits from the Bushehr Export Bank.

Mr Sadeqi praised and thanked the province officials, especially those of the export bank, who continuously helped this unit's officials from the time the company was established. He expressed the hope that this support would continue as in the past at all levels, so that, God willing, day by day, we will see these centers flourish and develop. This is really an effort towards the nation's self-sufficiency and an effort to eradicate deprivation from this province.

*Consumers on Need for Distribution of Shortages

95LA0179C Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Mar 95 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Although the approved price of vegetable shortening and butter represents a significant reduction, long, crowded lines appeared when their extensive distribution began in the stores, cooperatives, and shops.

The distribution of 60,000 tons of vegetable shortening at the approved price, to be completed in stores throughout the country by the end of the month of Esfand this year [19 March 1995], was approved two weeks ago by the Market Regulation Program Support Staff.

At this meeting, in addition to the announcement of distributing ordinary ration coupons for vegetable shortening, it was decided that the distribution of domestically produced vegetable shortening under guild and

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industrial rationing, which began in the month of Bahman [21 January-19 February 1995], will reach 25,000 tons by the end of the month of Esfand.

When the distribution of vegetable shortening began, in Tehran there were long lines of buyers most of the time in front of every distributing store.

To reduce the long lines and prevent abuses by brokers and middlemen, the citizens of Tehran are calling for establishing a distribution control system to assure that the goods will reach needy consumers.

The branch of the Sepah Consumer Cooperative Company, at the intersection of Fatemeh and Kargar streets, which distributes vegetable shortening and butter at the approved prices, is one of the centers where there are long lines of buyers while these two items are distributed.

Based on this report, next to the line of applicants for butter and vegetable shortening, which extended from the Kargar intersection toward North Kargar Street, there were dealers to be seen selling the butter and vegetable shortening to citizens and passers-by at about twice the price.

These people were buying the vegetable shortening and butter from people who were not in need and who had the opportunity to stand in the line. They sold it at a profit, most of which they pocketed themselves, to needy buyers who did not have the time to stand in the lines.

At the Sepah Consumer Cooperative, one liter of Turkish Una vegetable shortening is sold to the public at 2,170 rials [R], while 200 grams of butter is sold to the public at R1,270.

At the same time, the dealers and brokers next to the public line were selling that same one-liter container of vegetable shortening for R3,500, and they were selling the 200 grams of butter for R2,000.

According to JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI's correspondent, 70-year-old Rajab'ali Zare'i, resident of Tehran's Nezamabad, was standing in line to buy vegetable shortening and butter at the approved price. He said: Due to the fact that vegetable shortening and butter are distributed freely to everyone without any limitations, the profiteers go through the line several times to get more.

He added: In this situation there are those who turn the vegetable shortening and butter over to the brokers and middlemen as soon as they buy it at the approved price.

Ms. Afsaneh Afsharpur, a student in the field of bedside psychology, was another citizen standing in line to buy vegetable shortening. She said: The government must reduce public demand by distributing and marketing more of the needed goods.

She said: A large amount of the crowding is caused by the voracious desire to buy that people have because they are worried that the distribution of needed goods at stabilized prices will end.

She said: The problem of household hoarding, which may be discussed as a serious issue today, must be solved by trusting the public and continuing economic policies and the policies regulating the market.

One of the vegetable shortening sellers and distributors at the Sepah Consumer Cooperative Company also discussed the demand at the intersection of Fatemeh and Kargar streets. He said: Distribution statistics show that what is being distributed, if not in excess of public need, is also no less than the public need. If we put aside the handful of brokers and middlemen, the people buy to the extent of their needs and trust that the adopted course will continue.

He said: In the existing circumstances the best course to adopt is to distribute by coupons some goods for which there is greater need.

This seller said: The government's policy of distributing goods without limitations is acceptable and valid, but these measures will bear fruit more quickly for the government with organized distribution.

He said: To reduce the psychological effects of some of the shortages, it would be appropriate for distribution officials to extend distribution to local shops and stores, in addition to the cooperatives and large stores.

The director of the Kargar Branch of the Sepah Cooperative Store also believes that the best way to prevent lines, cut out the middlemen, and justly distribute goods that are not widely marketed is through coupon sales.

He said: To meet its market regulation goals and reduce the psychological effects of coupon distribution, the government could give special emphasis to creating the peace that is needed in the market today by marketing abundantly and reducing as much as possible the lag that follows the announcement of the coupons.

Pakistan

U.S. Sanctions Against Iran Viewed by Dailies

Global Opinion Against Action Urged

BK0305094395 Lahore JANG in Urdu 3 May 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The U.S. Announcement of Sanctions Against Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has announced that he will issue a decree soon to impose certain political and economic sanctions against Iran for attempting to engage in terrorism. Reacting, Iranian authorities have said that it is not surprised by the U.S. President's announcement. This is because Iran has been facing situations of this sort in the past 15 years. If the United States does so, it will also bear some losses as a result of the sanctions.

The U.S. stand targetting Muslim countries one by one reflects the discrimination and double standards it

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adopts at the international level. It keeps mum over the reign of terror unleashed by the Serbs against the Muslims in Bosnia and along with its allies is taking steps to see that no Muslim state comes into being in the heart of Europe. It does not even have the grace to raise its voice against the terrorism and brutalities of the Russians against Muslims in Chechnya. In occupied Kashmir too, there is a nefarious design of genocide against Muslims. However, the U.S. remains oblivious to this. It is also signing new agreements for cooperation with India, totally ignoring India's nuclear preparations and policy to equip missiles with nuclear warheads. However, the United Sates does not permit Pakistan its peaceful nuclear program to meet solely its energy needs. The Zionist conspiracy to weaken the Muslims was also behind the Iran-Iraq war. Later, the manner in which Iraq's strengtroyed in the Gulf war and the tragedy— the shortage of food and medicine which has weakened the Iraqis—are solely meant to teach Muslim countries a lesson. Now that Iran is being targeted and charged with involvement in terrorist activities, all Islamic countries together should kindle world public opinion against this U.S. action and adopt a common strategy to escape from its negative effects. If they fail to do so, the U.S. will not desist from targeting all Muslim countries one by one with its discrimination under some pretext or other.

Iran Victim of 'American Terrorism'

BK0305100095 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "US Sanctions Against Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Of all the countries, the United States has the audacity to declare that Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea and Cuba are supporting terrorism. This judgement is not only devoid of any substantiation but also, ironically, is given by the US State Department—an agency that has questionable credentials to issue any verdict about other countries' alleged involvement in such crimes. The State Department report, titled, "Patterns of Global Terrorism" clearly shows that except the remnants of Soviet allies, Cuba and North Korea, it is essentially aimed at targeting five Muslim countries who refuse to be enlisted as compradores to American imperialism. The US announced on Monday [1 May] trade sanctions against Iran for its alleged support of terrorism and a non-existent nuclear programme. This US action would suggest that the remaining four countries too will be subjected not only to US sanctions and would be denied access to loans by international financial institutions but also that American cronies would tighten the noose against these nations. Whereas such "moral" judgements can be challenged especially when the judge has a horrible profile in this field, it is also a sad reflection on the unipolar world which is dominated by Washington.

Without going into the ingredients that constituted to the rise of America to its present status, and without mentioning how White America has treated its own black citizens and the original sons of the soil—American Indians—even a cursory glance at the US role in world affairs after the end of the Second World War would be sufficient to prove that the United States has no rival in officially sponsoring, supporting, and accepting terrorism as a normal and cherished pattern of their foreign policy. While there is no dearth of apologies and regrets by those who were involved in crimes against humanity during the Second World War, the US is the only country that still takes pride in the use of atomic bombs on innocent citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hundreds of thousands killed in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia speak volumes about the pattern of American terrorism. Israeli terrorism unleashed against millions of Palestinians bears the stamp of American support and guidance. Over a million killed in Iraq bear the shadow of the stars and stripes. In addition to this reign of terror initiated against the helpless people whose only fault was a difference of opinion with the State Department about their political and economic agendas, the CIA sponsored coups against so many popularly elected regimes in Asia, Africa and South America demonstrate what actually state terrorism means and how it leads to even more deplorable espisodes in the subsequent developments in their history.

With such a deplorable profile in international relations, has the US State Department any right to declare any country a terrorist state? It is nothing more than a crude attempt to hide its own crimes against humanity. What is even more controversial is the fact that almost all these countries mentioned in this report have been victims of American terrorism. Iran had to face not only a war sponsored by the United States but also constant threats to its integrity. So much so that a civilian aircraft of Iran Air carrying passengers was blown up in cold blood by the American air force. The US government took no action against the murderers of innocent people. Libya was attacked, Iraq has been totally destroyed, every attempt was made to impose a civil war on Sudan with American involvement, and there are other glaring examples where Americans violated all norms of international law. How can they absolve themselves of the charges of terrorism? Under what moral or legal pretext can they assume this privilege of passing judgements against those countries who have been harassed for so long by none other than the one who is now assuming the role of a high priest of human rights.

The United States is looking for enemies and when none exists, it creates them and then starts a campaign of propaganda and slander. Unfortunately, international agencies are under its control and writ. Every insane statement initiated by Washington finds ready acceptance in the "civilised" Western world. What follows is American agenda in action under the appellation of international norms. This needs to be condemned in strongest terms by the world community as well as individual countries.

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U.S. 'Frantic' Moves Questioned

BK0305064695 Islamabad THE NATION in English 3 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "US Move against Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Clinton's announcement of an economic embargo against Iran, forbidding US companies either to trade with Iran or buy Iranian oil, comes in the wake of a US-sponsored propaganda offensive branding Iran as a 'terrorist state' and a 'threat to world peace'. That Iran is currently on top of the US 'hit list' has been brought to the fore by Washington's frantic moves to discredit and isolate Iran, but how far Washington is willing to go to 'teach a lesson' to the 'odd man out' in the so- called New World Order is anybody's guess. Nonetheless, the beginning of an economic war is ominous, a dicey game likely to be pursued by raising the confrontation level and pressuring other countries to fall in line with Washington's newest crusade. "It would be wrong to do nothing more as Iran continues its pursuit of nuclear weapons," Clinton said. "And it would be wrong to stand pat in the face of overwhelming evidence of Tehran's support for terrorists who would threaten to darken the dawn of peace between Israel and her neighbours". While the Americans have arrogated to themselves the right to set the rules of the game for good conduct, sit in judgement on the world view of other nations, and declare a country persona non grata if it refuses to accept US hegemony in world affairs, Iran in particular is being seen as an irritant that the US must get rid of. Apart from the strategic perception that Iran is today the bastion of 'Islamic fundamentalism'—the latest US bogy to rally support for safeguarding the 'democratic way of life'—the Americans hold Iran responsible for sustaining armed action by militant groups opposed to the PLO-Israel peace accord, in particular the Hizballah in Lebanon and the Hamas in Gaza. Iran has also been charged with being dangerously close to having nuclear weapons, an option that the Americans are not willing to let a country exercise without their tacit approval.

Washington had been considering tough action against Iran for quite some time, as the US administration's tone became pronouncedly aggressive and Bill Clinton vowed to contain the 'rogue state' which he said, "hungers for nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction." The sanctions announcement was, however, deemed all the more necessary to send the 'right message' to Boris Yeltsin, as the US president is preparing for a May 9 summit in Moscow. The Russians have hitherto refused to knuckle under to US pressure and cancel the agreement to help Iran built two nuclear reactors which the Americans say could produce weapons. Clinton hopes to persuade Moscow to call off what he called a 'profoundly disturbing deal'. Tehran's initial response to the US move suggests that the Iranian leadership will not take the threat lying down. "A military confrontation with the US is inevitable and the Iranian forces must be ready for war," the head of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards is reported to have said. Whether or not the arbitrary US move would lead to a showdown, the Americans cannot take for granted the kind of international support they were able to master for their operation against Saddam Husayn. The Iranians would be hard nuts to crack, and world opinion by no means palatable to any high-handed action. Perhaps some of the close US allies; would be unwilling to make the 'sacrifices' that Clinton wants them to make in order to 'change Iran's behaviour'.

Editorial Views Indian 'Threats,' Kashmir

BK2804143695 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 27 Apr 95 P 10

[Editorial: "India's Threats of Attack on Pakistan. The Prime Minister Should Take the Nation Into Confidence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chairman of the National Assembly Committee on Kashmir and senior statesman, stated that during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States, India issued threats that if the Pressler Amendment was abrogated, India would attack Pakistan with Prithvi missiles. Addressing a function at a hotel in Islamabad the other day, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan reproached India and said that it should desist from committing atrocities on the people of Kashmir and grant them their right of self-determination.

The Indian threats, as referred to by the senior statesman, are not only frightening but also call for serious attention in light of the existing situation in South Asia. About a week or 10 days ago, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao also ordered his troops to be on alert. Speaking at a rally organized by the Congress-I in front of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi a couple of days ago, Rajesh Pilot, India's minister of State for Home Affairs, also threatened that Pakistan should desist from interfering in occupied Kashmir, otherwise, there would be a decisive war.

The purpose of these threats by the Indian leadership is not only to intimidate Pakistan and force it to give up its political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris, but also to exert pressure on the United States not to resume any kind of aid to Pakistan. In fact, India is vexed with its internal situation. In addition to Kashmir, there are continuous movements in Punjab, Assam, and some other states to secede from India and to express opposition to the federal set up. In Nagaland, Indian forces are active in carrying out an operation similar to that of Kashmir from last week onwards and they are facing stiff resistance from Naga freedom fighters. The Indian threats are aimed at diverting the attention of its people from the internal situation and to create a war frenzy. However, Pakistan should be cautious of Indian designs.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan's disclosure about the Indian threats cannot be doubted. It is obvious that the

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prime minister herself provided this information to him. However, if the prime minister herself had apprised the nation of this Indian threat, it would have been better. We would like to request the prime minister to apprise the nation of the threat by India and to declare whether or not she discussed this issue with U.S. authorities; and if she had discussed it with the U.S. leadership, what was the response? The entire nation is distressed with the Indian threats and it is the prime minister's professional obligation to eliminate the concern of the nation.

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